FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol III No 38 *24 February 1978*

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MAR 1 0 1978

FBIS-SOV-78-38
Friday
24 February 1978
Vol III No 38

DAILY REPORT

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COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

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IGOR ORLOV LAUDS SOCIALIST STATES' DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL

LD241108Y Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--TASS political commentator Igor Orlov writes:

At a time when military budgets of th United States, the FRG and other NATO countries are soaring, when certain, rather influential, circles in the West are insistently foisting upon the world a new inhuman weapon--the neutron bomb--seven socialist countries demonstrate once again that they are persistently and consistently searching for practical approaches towards solution of a very important problem of today--disarmament. The testimony of this is the document on a comprehensive disarmament programme, submitted by the USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, for consideration of the Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

This well-thought out document incorporates a reply to the most topical questions agitating the minds of mankind. It sets out the main objectives and principles that should be guided by in solution of the disarmament problem. [sentence as received]

Concrete measures of disarmament are envisaged in all possible directions. The provisions pertaining to the mechanism of negotiations have also been elaborated. Though universal and complete disarmament under strict international control should become the main, ultimate goal of the states, the authors of the document are fully aware of real difficulties on this road. Therefore, they propose that concrete partial measures of restricting the arms race, reducing armaments and of disarmament should be the beginning.

The firm conviction of the socialist countries is that this process should be equally useful and beneficial for all its participants. Therefore they proposed that the emphasis should be made on such important principles as undiminished security of any of the parties to the agreement, renunciation of attempts of getting unilateral advantages, universal assertion and development of the principle of the non-use of force in international relations, the participation in negotiations and agreements being drawn up of the broadest possible number of states, particularly nuclear powers, and also the states which have the most powerful armed forces.

The socialist countries' programme comprises proposals on the need of a simultaneous halt in the production of any nuclear weapons, be that atomic, hydrogen or neutron, by all the states, [and] on the nuclear powers undertaking to start gradually reducing their stockpiles, up to their full elimination. It is to be recalled that these proposals have recently been advanced by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and were broadly approved by the public.

The analysis of the new document, jointly put forward by the socialist countries in Geneva, make stronger the confidence that an end to the arms race is the question upon which the future of mankind really depends. The programme, proposed by the socialist countries, is a well-grounded call to start cutting down the arms race. It is high time to take radical steps in this direction. Persistent efforts of the peace-loving forces of the whole planet are needed to bring them nearer.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES REJECT WEST'S BELGRADE DRAFT

LD230028Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Yevgeniy Kachanov]

[Text] According to news agency reports from Belgrade the socialist countries at the meeting on the problems of security and cooperation in Europe have rejected the draft of the closing document put forward by 15 Western states. The Soviet representative exposed it as an attempt to revise the main clauses of the final act of the Helsinki conference and to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist countries. In this draft, the Western powers are giving priority to the problem of human rights, ignoring in essence such important problems of concern to all mankind as the intensification of detente and the development of international (?cooperation).

In its draft, the Soviet Union reaffirmed its readiness to contribute to a comprehensive solution of the problems of security and cooperation and to expanding cultural exchanges and contacts.

BABENKO VIEWS OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AT CSCE MEETING

LD232030Y Moscow TASS in English 2015 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

["Who Is Who in Belgrade"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 23 TASS--TASS political commentator Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

The Belgrade follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is drawing to an end. The useful multi-aspect discussion of how to help further develop relationships between European countries, the USA and Canada, [and] implement the provisions of the final act of the Helsinki conference, took place in the Yugoslav capital. The champions of consolidating detente and of making it irreversible advanced a number of new important proposals made strictly in the spirit of the Helsinki accords. Their realisation would undoubtedly serve well the cause of strengthening peace and security not only in the European Continent but in other continents as well.

Unfortunately, such an approach to the work of the Belgrade meeting has been displayed not by all. For a long time the delegates of the USA and some other countries tried to substitute a propagandist hullabaloo for an earnest and businesslike discussion of important and topical matters.

On the one hand, they dissociated themselves from proposals aimed at consolidating political and military detente, at developing equal economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, specifically from the socialist states, those concrete initiatives which pertain to security-strengthening matters and confidence-building measures in the military field, which supplement political detente in Europe.

On the other hand, they staged a veritable spectacle in Belgrade on the theme of mythical "violations of human rights" in socialist countries. Against the background of this spectacle and the anti-Soviet and anti-communist campaign which was boosted in the West as if at a command, the American delegates and their allies at the Belgrade meeting are seeking to push through such decisions which in point of fact affect the sovereignty and internal affairs of other countries.

Already at the last moment the USA prepared a draft final document as a NATO powers' common proposal which, as admitted by the FRANCE PRESSE news agency, stood no chances to be endorsed, since it was of such obviously unacceptable nature that even many European partners of Washington agreed to it only with an effort. It is characteristic that France, one of the participants in the North Atlantic alliance, declined to join in this "initiative" of the United States altogether.

The international public came to see clearly "who is who" in Belgrade, who under the cover of a propagandist hullabaloo hinders the normal progress of the meeting day in and day out, and who, like, for example, socialist countries, by treating it in all responsibility, by their businesslike, concrete proposals and constructive attitude, help ensure a successful completion of the discussion in Belgrade in the name of further headway along the lines of detente and a wide mutually advantageous cooperation between countries with different systems.

PRAVDA: POSSIBILITY OF FINAL BELGRADE DOCUMENT SOON

LD240912Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0815 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Here is the full text of a commentary by Vasiliy Zhuravskiy, published in PRAVDA today:

The Belgrade meeting has entered its final stage. A useful exchange of opinions on implementing the understandings reached in the final act at Helsinki on improving relations between countries, strengthening detente and consolidating security and cooperation in Europe has taken place in Belgrade. Representatives of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have set out the positions of their governments on questions of European security and cooperation and made concrete proposals for the strengthening of detente.

The meeting is not going smoothly in its culminating stage, any more than it did earlier. The delegations of the United States and certain NATO allies are constantly making attempts to divert the meeting from the proper path as laid down by the final act. At the beginning of this week, they put their draft of the final document on the negotiating table. This speaks very eloquently of the unseemly intentions of its authors. Suffice it to say that it contains proposals aimed at revising the final act and representing direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, primarily the socialist states. It is understandable that it was rejected by the participants in the forum.

This draft, observers note, is the logical outcome of the line for undermining the process of detente begun at Helsinki, which the U.S. delegation has taken from the first day of the meeting. It is obvious that the introduction of the cold war spirit into the process of detente can only hinder and undermine detente.

"To adopt such an approach," stated Y.M. Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation, "would mean that all that was begun with great success in Helsinki, and all that has been implemented fruitfully by our countries in practice for 2.5 years, would have gone for nothing." It would be politically shortsighted to hope that the Soviet Union would give in to any pressure or would give up its principled positions.

In the opinion of many diplomats, despite the delays and absurd attempts by individual delegations to find compromises in fundamental questions, there is a real possibility of agreeing in the very near future on a positive concluding document that will receive the approval of the entire forum. The European public expects the Belgrade meeting to resolve this task immediately.

GDR DELEGATE CALLS FOR REALISTIC APPROACH AT MBFR TALKS

LD2317S4Y Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

["A Realistic Approach Is Necessary"--TASS headline]

[Text] Vienna, February 23 TASS--Participants in the talks on mutual force reductions in central Europe held a plenary meeting in Hofburg Palace here today. It was addressed by the leader of the GDR delegation, Ambassador Ingo Oeser.

Meeting pressmen afterwards the press attache of the GDR delegation said that Ambassador Oeser pointed again to the need for the negotiating parties to begin drafting an agreement acceptable to all of them. Such an agreement should be based on the proposals of the socialist countries, proposals which fully agree with the accords reached during preliminary consultations in 1973.

To make the Vienna talks a success, it is necessary for all the negotiators to proceed from the present approximate military party in the reduction area.

This parity was proved by official figures on the numerical strength of the armed forces of the two military groupings, presented at the talks. There is also an approximate parity as far as armaments are concerned. But the West continues to insist on "assymetric" reductions, i.e. reductions many times bigger for the socialist states, and this is the factor which holds back progress at the talks.

The aim behind this demand, said the leader of the GDR delegation, is first of all to change the present balance of armed forces in favour of NATO. But, inasmuch as the Western negotiators evidently see themselves that their allegations concerning the numerical superiority of the armed forces of the socialist countries cannot be proved, they have been trying lately to motivate their case by references to a so-called "geographic factor". This also contravenes the agreed principles of the Vienna talks.

Moreover, the NATO countries, instead of cutting their armed forces, have been systematically increasing them while the talks last and are now planning specifically to increase American land forces in the reduction area by 8,000 men. Nor the talks are advanced by the threats of neutron bombs made by some Western politicians. [sentence as received]

Ingo Oeser said in conclusion that a lowering of the high concentration of the armed forces in central Europe should not give anyone any military advantages. The socialist countries, he said, will never allow their security to be affected in any way.

W. EUROPEAN ADVOCATES OF NEUTRON BOMB CRITICIZED

LD232244Y Moscow TASS in English 2209 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksey Petrov writes:

Some politicians in the West assumed an utterly unsavory role, coming out under Washington's obvious pressure in support of the plans to deploy neutron weapons in Western Europe--the area which is already crammed with American nuclear weapons.

British Prime Minister James Callaghan, for example, took up such an attitude which is fraught with dangerous consequences, first of all, for Western Europe itself. By waving away the mounting wave of protests against the new barbarous weapons, the leader of the British Government resorted to an obvious distortion of the USSR's policy. He asserted in Parliament that the neutron bomb question is being used by the Soviet Union as a propagandist cover to prevent the discussion of the question of some other quite dangerous types of weapons which are being created.

This assertion is incorrect in its very essence. Well known is the Soviet Union's proposal to agree to a simultaneous halt in the production of nuclear weapons by all states, any such weapons--be it atomic, hydrogen or neutron bombs or shells. Still earlier the USSR declared in favor of reaching agreement to prevent the emergence of new types of new systems of weapons of mass destruction. The enumeration of the USSR's constructive proposals could be continued.

All these initiatives of the Soviet Union are known not only in Washington and London but, of course, in Bonn as well. Over there, too, however, politicians who do not want to reckon with present-day realities, increased their activity.

In the FRG, the CDU-CSU [Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union] group overtly declared in favor of neutron weapons, thereby confirming that it continually conducts a campaign against the relaxation of international tensions and openly adheres to a course towards stepping up the arms race. Some leaders of the group spoke in the same vein in the past, too. There is every indication that they drew no lessons from the past, and prefer ignoring a negative reaction of the public of their own country and other countries.

The West European advocates of neutron weapons are busy trying to present it as "tactical" almost "innocuous" means of nearly "defensive" character. Deluding the peoples, they in point of fact are trying to whittle down the distinction between conventional and nuclear weapons and make a transition to nuclear war as if imperceptible outwardly.

Concealed from the public is also quite an important circumstance that neutron weapons can be turned against West European countries, although it should be absolutely clear to everyone that the Soviet Union will not remain indifferent to the development of neutron weapons. Our country is firmly against the neutron bomb production. But if the bomb is created in the West, the USSR will face a necessity to reply to such a challenge in the name of ensuring security of the Soviet people, its allies and friends.

WORLD MARKET REACTION TO FALLING U.S. DOLLAR VALUE CITED

LD212146Y Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

["'Free Float' Dollar"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 21 TASS--Numerous reports are coming in from money markets of the leading capitalist countries on persisting depreciation of the exchange rate of the key currency of the Western world--American dollar.

Geneva--The dollar value rate is steadily on the decline in Switzerland. At the Zurich money market today its rating was 1,8275 franc per dollar, the lowest ever mark.

Vienna--An unprecedented drop in the value rate of the American dollar has been registered at the money market of Austria's capital. One dollar here was sold for 14,6650 schillings, whereas it cost 14,7825 schillings late last week.

Tokyo--The dollar value rate against the yen has sharply dropped--that was the Tokyo money market's response to the persistant depreciation of the dollar. One dollar today was valued here only at 237.1 yen--only 0.1 yen above its "record", registered early in January this year. In a bid to prevent a further growth of the yen value rate, the Bank of Japan urgently purchased 80 million dollars.

Bonn--In West Germany the dollar value rate reached the lowest ever mark in the whole history of monetary-financial operations in that country. In Frankfurt am Main today one dollar was exchanged for only 2,0365 West German marks. In a bid to prevent a rise in the value rate of the mark, undesirable for the FRG (that would lead to a rise in the cost of West German exports), the German Federal Bank during yesterday alone purchased 40 million dollars.

The local observers regard the actions of the American side as Washington's attempt to undermine the positions of its main rivals in the Western world by reduction of the dollar value rate.

The influential newspaper WESTFALISCHE RUNDSCHAU writes today in this connection that the mounting "dollar fever" carries a big threat to economy and finances not only of the FRG, but also of other Western countries. The time is coming for these countries "to take measures to defend their own markets", the newspaper stresses. "The U.S. President has so far done very little, or nothing at all to stop the persistent drop in the dollar value rate," WESTFALISCHE RUNDSCHAU writes.

Kuwait--A constant drop in the dollar value rate adversely affects national incomes of the oil-producing states and could make them give up the American currency as the unit of account for oil, the Qatar Minister of Finance and Petroleum 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah al Thani said in an interview to the Saudi Arabian newspaper AL-JAZIRAH.

With the dollar value rate steadily depreciating, he said, the petroleum exporting countries get, on the average, 20-25 cents less from the cost of every barrel of the petroleum.

WESTERN ENERGY CONFERENCE OPENS IN WASHINGTON

LD240824Y Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports:

A two-day conference of industrialised capitalist countries has opened here to discuss energy problems.

It is attended by representatives of the USA, Britain, France, the FRG, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Australia, Japan, as well as the European Economic Community and the International [Atomic] Energy Agency. The conference is to discuss a wide range of energy problems confronting the Western world and work out recommendations for energy-saving measures in order to reduce the dependence of the Western countries on oil imports.

The conference in Washington is taking place against the background of a worsening energy crisis in the capitalist countries and the growing dependence of the Western countries on oil imports and keen struggle for access to sources of energy.

Questions of energy policy, reduction of oil consumption and development of alternative sources of energy give rise to serious disagreements among the capitalist countries. The Common Market countries and Japan blame the present difficulties chiefly on the United States which accounts for 54 per cent of the oil consumed by the industrialised Western countries. They accuse Washington of its reluctance to limit energy consumption and hasten the adoption of an energy programme which has got stuck in Congress.

DISCUSSION AT CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION NOTED

LD231417Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Gennadiy Gorelov commentary: "Along the Course of Integration"]

[Text] The 84th CEMA Executive Committee session was held in Moscow a few days ago. Its participants examined certain questions of realizing the comprehensive program for the CEMA countries' socialist economic integration and the decisions of the 31st CEMA session.

The council's fraternal states and organs are now drawing up long-term, targeted cooperation programs which embrace the very important sphere of material production. Their fulfillment will raise our countries' economic cooperation to a higher level.

The fraternal countries devote special attention to further development of electricity generation. In 1977, electricity generation in the CEMA countries reached 1.54 trillion kilowatt-hours. Their share of world generation now stands at more than 20 percent. Given this scale, great significance is attached to measures to increase dependability and to make fuller use of the advantages of the parallel working of the CEMA countries' joint power systems. This was discussed at the Executive Committee session. In 1978, it is planned to commission the jointly constructed 750-kilovolt Vinnitsa-west Ukraine (USSR)--Albertirsa (Hungary) power transmission line, which will inaugurate the parallel working of the joint power systems with the USSR's unified power system.

The deepening of the international socialist division of labor and the development of socialist economic integration are linked with the continuous growth of reciprocal deliveries among the CEMA countries. In 1977, their foreign trade turnover increased by almost one-third compared with 1975 and reached approximately R160 billion. The Executive Committee session noted the need to improve the system of foreign trade transport operations. These ends will be served by a complex of measures which will be drawn up within the framework of the long-term targeted program of transport cooperation.

The spirit of fraternal and comradely mutual assistance permeates CEMA's activities. A graphic example of this is provided by the fraternal states' cooperation with the Republic of Cuba. The Executive Committee examined Cuba's proposals for the development of sugar, citrus fruit and paper production and others. [paragraph continues]

Coordinated measures will be provided for in corresponding long-term cooperation programs. Harmonious joint labor and collective efforts are enabling the fraternal states to reinforce their economic might and strengthen the positions of socialism in the world.

MEETING OF EEC ECONOMIC, FINANCE MINISTERS NOTED

LD201856Y Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, February 20, TASS--A session of the Ministerial Council of European Communities [as received] opened here today at the level of ministers of economy and finance. They will analyze the economic situation in Common Market countries that is characterised by a high level of inflation, a huge army of unemployed (6.1 million), drop of production, crisis in the leading branches of industry and continued monetary instability. The ministers will study proposals by the Commission of the European Communities on the resumption of consultations to create within the grouping a monetary and economic union. The realisation of this idea was deadlocked by remaining acute monetary differences between the partners.

IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS CONCLUDES VIENNA SESSION

LD231520Y Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Vienna, February 23, TASS--The session of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) came to a close here. It was attended by a Soviet delegation led by Igor Morokhov, member of the board of governors from the USSR, first vice-chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy. The participants in the session discussed matters aimed at enhancing the IAEA control over the implementation of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as a number of current problems of the agency's activities. Much consideration was given to the practical application of the agreement on the IAEA control in non-nuclear member countries of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). The board of governors decided to continue a thorough consideration of the matter at its special session in April this year.

WALDHEIM REMARKS ON DISARMAMENT, MIDDLE EAST REPORTED

LD230836Y Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 23, TASS--Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations secretary-general, said that they attached exceptional importance to the special disarmament session of the U.N. General Assembly to be held in May and June this year. Speaking to correspondents, acredited at the United Nations, Waldheim expressed the hope that this event would further stimulate the efforts of the international community aimed at curbing the arms race and at disarmament, above all, nuclear disarmament.

Commenting on the situation in the Middle East, the U.N. secretary general once again reaffirmed the necessity of a comprehensive political settlement in that region on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly. These resolutions, specifically, envisage the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

Waldheim said that he had closely watched the visit to Moscow of Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad. The latter's talks in Moscow with Leonid Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders had shown once again the necessity of continuing the joint efforts of the USSR and the USA as co-chairmen of the general peace conference on the Middle East with the object of finding ways of a peaceful settlement in that region, taking into consideration the legitimate aspirations of all interested sides. Waldheim particularly emphasised that he could not agree with attempts to excluding the Soviet Union from the process of talks in the Middle East. He said that any realistic settlement in that region pre-supposed participation of the Soviet Union as co-chairman of the Geneva conference together with all interested sides in the process of the talks.

Waldheim expressed regret over the Egyptian commandos' attack on Larnaca Airport in Cyprus. Waldheim said he had been notified by the president of Cyprus, Spiros Kyprianou, that he was ready to meet with President as-Sadat for a peaceful settlement of the consequences of the incident. President as-Sadat, however, has not yet replied to this offer. The U.N. secretary general also stressed the need of complying with United Nations resolution on granting freedom and independence as soon as possible to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia who were waging an armed struggle against the regimes of apartheid and racial segregation.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY DISCUSSES ECONOMIC, CULTURAL RIGHTS

LD232323Y Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 23, TASS--The participants of the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Commission, held in Geneva at the Palace of Nations, have started discussing the implementation of human economic, social and cultural rights and the realization of international pacts on human rights. These important issues have been at the top of the agenda of the commission for several years now. Delegates from certain capitalist countries, said the Syrian representative Dialla al-Fattal, regard the human economic, social and cultural rights as a threat to their health and privileges. This attitude contradicts the aims of the commission set up to promote and defend all human rights.

We have to state, said Soviet representative Valerian Zorin, that basic human social, economic and cultural rights are violated in many countries. Capitalist countries are famous for the violations of human rights to work. These violations are committed either in the form of undisguised anti-labour legislation limiting the social and economic rights of workers and their organizations, or as camouflaged violations by the state or individual enterprises of formally proclaimed rights. The general concern for man, his basic rights and freedoms remain in the centre of attention of the Soviet state, continued the Soviet representative, with special emphasis given to those rights which create the material basis for human life: the right to life, the right to work and just labour conditions, the right to rest and leisure, to education, health protection and medical aid, to social insurance, to housing, the right to access to culture. In our days this was realized in a concentrated form by the USSR new constitution which was discussed and approved by all Soviet people.

The Polish representative, A. Lopatka, expressed regret that by now only one-third of the UN states have ratified international pacts on human rights. Unfortunately, this number does not include certain states which claim to defend human rights. These facts answer the needs of the actual implementation of human rights and must be recognized as the basis for international cooperation in this field, said the Polish representative.

UNITED STATES

BOOKLET ON U.S. IMPERIALISM'S MILITARY MACHINE ISSUED

LD240636Y Moscow TASS in English 0615 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--A huge military machine created by U.S. imperialism for conducting aggressive wars, for staging provocations, for suppressing the national liberation movement and for the struggle against the working people of the United States and of dependent countries is a dangerous power in the hands of the enemies of peace, adversaries of detente and peaceful coexistence. This instrument of the reactionary circles of the United States constitutes a real threat to peace. This is said in the booklet "Danger from the Right: The Pentagon" that was brought out by the Moscow publishers Znaniye.

It is said in the booklet that the total numerical strength of the United States Armed Forces is 2.1 million. A considerable part of these forces, about 500 thousand, is permanently stationed outside the United States, mostly in the territories of countries that are dependent on Washington, that have been drawn into the NATO aggressive bloc or other militarist pacts. It is noteworthy that almost all of these units of the United States Armed Forces are stationed close to the frontiers of the USSR and other socialist countries. According to official data alone, the Pentagon now has abroad almost 300 large air bases, naval and army bases and also about 2,000 other military projects. They are situated in 30 countries.

The Pentagon now has over 150 large military bases in Europe. Over 300 thousand officers and men, the biggest and most combat-ready contingent of the U.S. Armed Forces abroad, is stationed at bases in Europe. The U.S. troops in Europe have at their disposal over 7,000 units of nuclear weapons and numerous means of their delivery. The most ramified network of the U.S. military bases is in the FRG territory. The U.S. bases in the FRG include over 20 large air bases, most of which constitute whole complexes--several airfields, including underground airfields, huge dumps, etc. 200 thousand of U.S. servicemen are stationed in the FRG. Over 500 warplanes and the bulk of the U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe is in the FRG. In addition to the FRG, which is the main area of the Pentagon's "strategy of bases" in Europe, the Pentagon also has bases in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Iceland. There is also a network of U.S. bases in southern Europe, above all in Spain, Italy, Turkey, Greece and in the Azores Islands owned by Portugal. Tens of major U.S. military bases operate in Japan, South Korea, in Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, and other countries.

Creating its bases in the lands of others, conducting the policy of "military presence" in dependent countries, the U.S. military turns the masses in these countries into its hostages and accomplices in its aggressive policy.

LION'S SHARE OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO 'PUPPET REGIMES'

LD231130Y Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 23, TASS--The United States administration officially asked Congress to endorse foreign aid appropriations for 62 countries to a total of 4,135 million dollars. A report from the State Department to Congress says that the foreign-aid programme is an important tool in the U.S. foreign policy and allegedly promotes the cause of collective security and peace.

In fact, the lion's share of military aid, as always, goes to Israel, pursuing an expansionist course, and to puppet regimes. One thousand million dollars have been earmarked for credits to Tel Aviv for the purchase of arms in the United States and another 785 million dollars on so-called aid to safeguard security. Egypt will get much less, 750 million dollars as aid to safeguard security and 400,000 dollars for other similar requirements.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives opened a hearing on a long-term programme for military aid to South Korea, under which the Seoul puppet regime will get a total of 2,000 million dollars, including 80 million dollars worth of American arms, tanks, helicopters, and even the latest Harpoon missiles, which have only just been received by the U.S. Navy, will be among the supplies.

INSTITUTE REVIEWS U.S. AID TO 'REPRESSIVE REGIMES'

LD231950Y Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 23 TASS--TASS correspondent Viktor Borodin reports:

Disregarding the mass protests of the American and international public, the United States continues large deliveries of weapons to reactionary governments, which flout human rights in their countries, says a report of the department on questions of militarism and disarmament of the Institute for Policy Studies.

Under the military aid programme the United States supplied credits and armaments to a sum of 4,300 million dollars (?to) repressive regimes in a period from 1973 to 1977. Among these regimes are Chile, Uruguay, South Korea. Under the American commercial sales programme those countries additionally purchased in the United States 18,200 million dollars worth of armaments, which accounts for 37 percent of all deliveries of U.S. weapons abroad.

American clients' purchase lists show that the armaments (?supplied), including tanks, armoured carriers and tear-gas, are intended for suppressing any opposition to these odious regimes.

Washington's policy is aimed, as before, at keeping in power the regimes it likes, the regimes which vigorously struggle against democratic transformations and which firmly hold the positions of anti-communism, the authors of the report stress.

The United States does not want the public opinion to known how great is the scope of the rotten regimes, and therefore it conceals the armaments supplied under different items of government expenditures. Thus, a huge part of armaments is supplied under the so-called anti-drug programme. Other programmes, frequently implemented with CIA's participation, envisage formation of concentration camps on the territory of "allied states". Part of the money for realisation of such programmes is allocated by the Agency for International Development, the report points out.

The Pentagon trains foreign police personnel in methods of struggle against "dissidents" and methods of "effective" investigation. About 12,000 men were trained on the territory of the United States and American bases on foreign territories in 1973-1977.

The alluring promises made by the administration to restrict the sales of armaments abroad, the report stresses, are obviously at variance with deeds. Thus, in 1978 fiscal year anti-popular regimes will get an approximately 500 million dollars worth of armaments. Besides, to facilitate their access to the U.S. arms market, Washington increased the ceiling of purchase crediting up to 2,200 million dollars.

The authors of the report come to the conclusion that support of the repressive regimes is part and parcel of the U.S. foreign policy.

SENATOR JACKSON HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON PRC VISIT

LD231552Y Moscow TASS in English 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 23, TASS--Upon his return after a visit to China Senator Jackson gave a press conference at which he set out his appraisal of meetings with the leadership of the PRC.

It is clear from his pronouncements at the press conference that the Chinese leadership told him its point of view on the whole range of matters which were discussed by the U.S. senator in Peking. The viewpoint, as is obvious from the senator's utterances, is hostile to the cause of peace and relaxation of international tensions. Thus, for example, as Senator Jackson emphasized, matters, as he put it, of a strategic situation in the world figured importantly in his talks with the Chinese. The Chinese, according to him, want to see NATO strong and cautioned that the matters which are under discussion at the Soviet-U.S. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks may lead to a serious weakening of the positions of the West and that the USA, according to them, gives an insufficient attention to matters of increasing its armaments.

Senator Jackson stated that the Chinese and American positions are close in the question of As-Sadat's separate talks with Israel. He said the USA and the Chinese have common elements in the approach to key strategic problems.

NUCLEAR TEST REPORTED IN NEVADA 23 FEBRUARY

LD232225Y Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 23, TASS--The United States set off today an underground nuclear explosion, the first one this year, in Nevada testing range. As a spokesman of the Energy Department said, its yield was 20 to 150 kilotons.

'HYPOCRISY' OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. CRITICIZED

LD231209Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Article by PRAVDA political commentator Vitaliy Korionov: "Human Rights and U.S. Weapons"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has published a peculiar document--a so-called report on the observance of human rights, though not in the United States, but in...105 countries of the world which receive aid from the United States or purchase U.S. weapons.

The report attests to Washington's intention to continue playing its self-appointed role as a kind of "judge" who reaches a personal verdict as to whether or not other states are guilty of a failure to observe human rights. This is a particularly absurd claim, for it comes from the administration of a country where the flouting of human rights has long since become a system. The deprivation of a large section of the U.S. population of its right to work; the deprivation of tens of millions of people, who do not happen to have white skin, of their rights; the imprisonment of "dissidents"; the tyranny of the FBI and CIA; the unequal position of women, and many other facts known to the whole world--that is the true state of affairs with regard to human rights in the main capitalist country. It would clearly not be a bad thing if those people in Washington who try to "pass judgement" on other countries and peoples were to remember the useful advice of Abraham Lincoln: "If you want to teach others, first of all do some learning yourself." There is no reason to be surprised that the Washington administration's hypocritical declarations about human rights frequently develop into direct support for reactionary dictatorial regimes which, like the United States itself, have besmirched themselves with the crude violations of the international conventions on human rights.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, noting that the State Department document contains "unusually vague expressions," writes: "This document clearly does not give an objective factual assessment of the state of affairs because it is constructed, albeit very carefully, with consideration for U.S. political and strategic objectives." This vagueness and inconsistency, the newspaper considers, "merely provides grounds for accusing the United States of hypocrisy." And there is indeed ample evidence of hypocrisy.

It would be futile, for instance, to seek in the report any comdemnation of the inhuman practice of the fascist junta in Chile, which enjoys extremely generous support from the United States, rendered through various channels and in particular via the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in which, as is known, the vote of U.S. representative is of a determining significance.

The report defends the Israeli ruling circles, despite the fact that it contains an acknowledgment of the existence of documentary corroboration of reports about the Israeli authorities' use of "methods of very powerful physical and psychological pressure during interrogations" (we are talking about repressions by Israel's military authorities against the population of the Arab territories occupied by the invaders).

The compilers of the State Department report decided to voice disapproval in the human rights sphere only of Nicaragua and then, it seems, only because the instability of Somoza's regime, which has been given all-round support by Washington for such a long time, is becoming increasingly obvious.

The example of South Korea is especially typical. Even the New York TIMES calls the attitude of the report's compilers to the dictatorial South Korean regime "deferential." This regime deals so savagely with "dissidents" that even the report's compilers could not fail to admit: "Restrictions on political freedoms lies at the basis of the human rights problems in (South) Korea" and surveillance of the regime's opponents remains "intensive."

It would seem that if elementary logic is followed, the State Department should have advocated the ending of U.S. aid to the Seoul regime. But the Washington diplomats have their own logic. As the New York TIMES reports, the U.S. Government "intends in the next 5 years to implement a program of military support for Seoul worth about $2 billion in the form of credits and supplies of arms gratis." The aid to Seoul is justified by that hackneyed "argument"--U.S. national security interests, using this false pretext as a cover. Washington is saturating the arsenals of regimes like the South Korean regime with U.S. weapons.

As is known, during the 1976 election campaign the Democratic Party's presidential candidate delivered angry tirades against U.S. weapons dealers, condemning "this dirty business," this "dangerous" and "irresponsible" occupation.

However, only a short time had elapsed when on 19 May 1977 J. Carter announced: "...Henceforth the United States will regard arms deliveries as an exclusive instrument of foreign policy which will have to be used in cases where it is clearly established that the deal will serve the interests of our national security." The French newspaper LE MONDE, commenting on the President's statement, noted that "this reservation alone is quite capable of reducing to nothing the significance of the restrictive measures allegedly being applied to sales of arms abroad."

Indeed, taking advantage of the aforementioned "reservation," the United States is sending a broad stream of weapons not only to South Korea, Israel and Saudi Arabia but now also to Egypt. Of course, this is by no means a complete list of the countries that are receiving U.S. weapons. "From Northern Ireland to the Philippines," the U.S. expert Richard (Layens) writes, "people have been killed in thousands of conflicts with weapons whose manufacture has brought profits to U.S. firms."

In a situation where the true aims of U.S. policy are becoming obvious to more and more millions of people, the inspirers of this policy are engaged in an intensive search for camouflage. Z. Brzezinski, the U.S. President's special assistant for national security affairs, recently made a typical admission: "Fear of communism no longer serves as the cementing agent of our foreign policy. Human rights could become this theme...." The State Department report was the latest such attempt to present U.S. ruling circles as human rights zealots. Naturally this attempt cannot bring success either.

The peoples can see that the hullabaloo over human rights, the arms deliveries to reactionary regimes concealed by arguments about U.S. national security, and also the fabrications about the mythical "Soviet threat" or the "communist danger" are nothing but components of one and the same course which is alien to the fundamental interests of mankind.

CARTER'S ANSWERS ON BLACK POPULATION 'UNSATISFACTORY'

LD172127Y Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 17, TASS--Contrary to demands by American and world public, the U.S. administration has no intention of giving up its "positions of noninterference" in the affairs of the Wilmington ten and taking steps to free this group of courageous U.S. civil rights champions from prison. This can be seen from U.S. President James Carter's statement in an interview for a group of editors of the association of Negro press organs.

Carter was asked among other things how to reconcile Washington's campaign for human rights in other countries with the continued violation of these rights in the USA itself. In reply the President merely stated that the government deplores any human or civil rights violations in the United States. As to the Wilmington ten affair, it is in the jurisdiction of the courts of North Carolina, he maintained.

The President insisted he was unaware of the details of the case, though the ten's leader, Benjamin Chavis, and many public organizations in the U.S. repeatedly sent him personal messages with a detailed description of the circumstances of this shameful judicial reprisal. Just the other day the national committee in defence of the Wilmington ten handed a protest petition to the White House signed by tens of thousands of public representatives in the USA and other countries.

In its letter to the President, the national committee stressed that the plight of political inmates has become a national problem in the USA, not just in North Carolina. Talking about human rights is not enough. Practical actions for their observance are necessary, the letter pointed out. However, just as in similar cases before, the White House left the letter without attention.

The President's answers concerning the tragic plight of the country's black population were unsatisfactory. The blacks bear the brunt of the economic troubles in the USA. Carter could only reiterate the fact of tremendous unemployment among Negros, particularly the youth. As is known, even incomplete official data give the number of redundant black Americans as double the unemployment rate among the white population, and coming to nearly 14 per cent.

CARTER SEEKS WAYS TO EXERT 'PRESSURE' ON COAL MINERS

LD241104Y Moscow TASS in English 1059 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

["Conflict Remains Acute"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports:

U.S. coal monopolies have turned down the latest proposal made by the United Mine Workers of America on conclusion of a labour bargaining agreement, envisaging a rise in wages, improvement in working conditions, restriction of the employers' arbitrary rule. More than 160,000 miners are involved in the national strike which is in progress.

The day before the monopolies tried to impose upon the trade union their terms of settlement of the conflict through "arbitration". The attempt has been a failure: The miners turned it down as the mine-owners' undisguised manoeuvre to purchase "class peace" at the expense of the vital interests of the working people.

Though the strike has been too long under way because of employers' manoeuvres, the U.S. Government is preparing ground for interference in the labour conflict on the side of the monopolies. President Carter held another series of consultations with the leadership of the Senate and governors of the major coal-producing states, (West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania) in order to find possible ways of exerting pressure upon the miners.

NEW U.S. STEEL IMPORT RULES 'OPENLY PROTECTIONIST'

LD231426Y Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 23, TASS--The new steel imports rules, adopted in the United States under the pressure of American steel monopolies, have officially come into force. This openly protectionist measure is directed against their foreign rivals, primarily against steel trusts of Japan and Western Europe. The new rules set prices of imported steel, and its imports into the country at a price below the fixed one automatically involves an investigation on damping charges by the U.S. Department of Commerce. American steel trusts, however, believe that the new rules are insufficiently striot. They intend to raise prices on their steel by another 5.5 percent. According to the U.S. Federal Commission on Trade, this will cost the American consumers additionally more than 1,000 million dollars a year.

SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ADOPTS RESOLUTION

OW201326Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 18 Feb 78 OW

[Text] The third all-union meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society adopted a resolution. The resolution says:

In the 60-year history of our country, strengthening our friendship with the Chinese people and international solidarity has been a consistent, unswerving principle of the CPSU and the Soviet state. During the national liberation wars and in the years of peaceful construction, the Leninist Communist Party, which cherishes friendship with the great Chinese people, and the Soviet people, who are educated to have respect for the Chinese people, always helped the Chinese people. The Soviet Union, which faithfully adheres to the proletarian internationalist principle, did its best to help the PRC develop its socialist economy and increase its international prestige. The principled policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state toward China was and is unanimously applauded and supported by the Soviet public. The activities of the Soviet-Chinese friendship society proves this point. The Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society was the first society established in the Soviet Union to forge friendship with foreign peoples. The establishment of this society demonstrates the Soviet people's sincere desire to carry out the CPSU's policy of strengthening friendship and internationalist solidarity with the Chinese people. In the years since its founding, the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society has done a great deal of work to introduce the Chinese people's activities to the Soviet public and to introduce the Soviet people's achievements in building communism to the Chinese public.

The resolution continues: Over the past few years, the Soviet Union has always worked to truly normalize the Sino-Soviet relationship on the basis of mutual benefit and neighborliness. First, we have sought to solve all disputes in the spirit of cooperation and neighborliness. The Soviet Union has repeatedly issued many constructive proposals to China, such as those for the conclusion of a treaty to avoid force and for the development of information exchanges between the academies of sciences of the two countries and in the fields of public health and physical culture. Both now and in the past, the Soviet Union has shown, in both words and deeds, that any problems of Soviet-Chinese relations can be solved in the spirit of neighborliness. The 25th CPSU Congress once again confirmed the principled policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state and their desire to normalize the relationship between the two countries. Since the convocation of the 25th CPSU Congress, the Soviet Union has taken many steps showing that the Soviet Union truly plans to improve its relationship with the PRC.

The resolution of the third all-union meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society says that the restoration, strengthening and development of friendly and cooperative relations between the Soviet and Chinese peoples will still be the society's major task in the future. The society will continue to introduce the Chinese people's life, history and culture to the Soviet public and the Soviet people's achievements in building communism and the international policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state toward China to the Chinese workers.

The resolution concludes: Participants in the third all-union meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, like all other Soviet people, have bright hopes for the future of Soviet-Chinese relations, believing that many chapters on revolutionary friendship, peace, national liberation, social progress and great socialist coordination will be written in the history of the Soviet-Chinese relationship. We optimistically look to the future because the history of the Soviet-Chinese relationship unfailingly proves that friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and China conforms to the fundamental interests of the peoples of our two countries.

DANGEROUS ALLIANCE DEVELOPING BETWEEN PRC, NATO

LD191330Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2216 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--The dangerous alliance between Peking and the ever-militant circles of the West has been in evidence for a long time, writes Mikhail Georgiyev in PRAVDA. West German ultras with revanchist trends, high-placed officials of the North Atlantic bloc, advocates of military-industrial complexes in Western Europe as well as on the other side of the Atlantic--they all are full of praise for the policy of the Peking leaders who have chosen the course of pushing the world toward war and counteracting detente and disarmament. While demonstrating its anti-Soviet policy, the commentary notes, Peking has started to test world opinion with the intent of acquiring arms in the West. In doing so Peking clearly shows against whom these arms are meant to be used. To remove any doubts in this regard, the Chinese deputy foreign minister, (Hsi-yu Chen), said in an interview with the Madrid paper EL PAIS "for us...the basic enemy is the Soviet socio-imperialism". The commander-in-chief of the armed forces of NATO, Haig, has assessed Peking's anti-Soviet policy so highly that he has found it possible to declare: "It is by no means illogical to say that China is the 16th member of the North Atlantic alliance". The open unity of the NATO general with the warmongers in Peking cannot but put the peace-loving public on its guard.

PEKING EMPLOYS HEROIN ADDICTION TO WEAKEN WEST

LD162226Y Moscow TASS in English 2142 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 16, TASS--Courting the West, the Peking's leaders smile a false smile now and then. But this is a smile of persons whose path to their aim is covered with tens, hundreds of thousands of people dying of "narcotics strategy," writes IZVESTIYA's Tokyo correspondent Yuriy Bandura. He writes about the scope of drug addiction, which is imposed by Peking on Western peoples. IZVESTIYA's Tokyo correspondent refers to a series of reportages of Japanese journalist N. Ochiai published by the Japanese weekly SHUKAN BUNSHUN under the heading "Chinese Strategy of Narcotics."

During his Yenan period, Mao Tse-tung instructed one of his associates, Wang Cheng-yu, to organize production of opium poppy to turn opium into funds, the article says. In 1951, Peking created in the Portuguese colony of Macao "Teshu Changping" company which means "special goods." The company sold opium and products for its refinement. In 1953, the Peking government made a call to the population to grow opium poppy as supplementary production. This call, however, was received so enthusiastically that poppies soon started blossoming in the fields that were meant for rice and other crops. "It is extremely important for us to export morphine and heroin in great quantities, to weaken with their use the enemy's combat might and destroy the enemy without starting a war with it", Chou En-lai said at a special conference in Wuhan in 1958. During the war in Indochina, Chinese narcotics were flowing into South Vietnam. As a special military committee of the United States established in 1970, drug addiction spread to 30 per cent of the entire composition of units of the U.S. Army in South Vietnam, approximately to 150 thousand people. The popularity of narcotics with American servicemen inspired the Peking government so much that it decided to turn narcotics into an important instrument of Peking's world strategy. This course was adopted around mid-1971. In 1971, China was admitted into the United Nations, opened its representation in New York and thus was granted diplomatic immunity that enabled its representatives to bring large consignments of narcotics into the United States without risking to be caught at doing so, the article says. Precisely since that time an upward trend was shown by drug addiction in the United States. The number of arrested addicts rose by 84 per cent already in 1971. The U.S. authorities lost all doubt that huge quantities of narcotics are supplied to the United States precisely by China after a certain Mr Chioh was arrested in 1972. He was preparing a base for espionage centre and intended to obtain the funds for this from narcotics peddling. But the spread of Chinese narcotics naturally was not stopped with Chioh's arrest. The "narcotics strategy" continues operating, the article says in conclusion.

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN GREET CSSR LEADERS ON ANNIVERSARY

LD240900Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin have sent greetings to Gustav Husak and Lubomir Strougal in connection with the glorious anniversary in the life of the fraternal Czechoslovakia--the 30th anniversary of the February victory over the reaction. The greetings state:

The victorious February of 1948, which has become an event of historical importance in the fates of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, created the necessary preconditions for the building of a socialist society in your country. The Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ], having set an example of the creative application of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, its strategy and tactics, has enriched the collective treasurehouse of world communism by carrying out a socialist revolution in an industrially developed country along a peaceful path. This revolution frustrated the designs of the internal and external reaction and asserted the power of the working class and was an important link in the formation of the world system of socialism.

In the years of people's power Czechoslovakia has achieved outstanding successes in the development of the economy, science and culture and in the raising of the prosperity of the working people. Coming resolutely forward in support of the consolidation of the unity and cohesion of the countries of the socialist community and consistently carrying out a policy of peace and supporting the freedom-loving aspiration of the peoples, the CSSR has deservedly earned high prestige on the international arena.

Soviet Communists and the working people of the Soviet Union experience a feeling of deep satisfaction at the fact that on the basis of the fighting alliance between the CPSU and the CPCZ, the inviolable friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR in the joint struggle for communist ideals are gaining in strength and developing. We wish communists and all Czechoslovak working people fresh successes in the implementation of the decisions of the 15th CPCZ Congress for the building of a developed socialist society and for the further prosperity of the CSSR.

Moscow Observance

LD212018Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Representatives of the workers of Moscow today solemnly marked the 30th anniversary of the February victory of the Czechoslovak workers over the reactionaries. In the presidium of the meeting which took place to commemorate this date were Kirilenko, member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Sarkisov, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Katushev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and representatives of public organizations. Present at the meeting were diplomatic workers of the CSSR Embassy in the Soviet Union, and participants in the events of February 1948 in Czechoslovakia.

LESECHKO MEETS GDR COUNTERPART IN MOSCOW

LD211647Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 16 February M.A. Lesechko, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received G. Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and had a conversation with him which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

BLUMENTHAL TALKS IN BONN SHOW U.S.-FRG 'COMPETITION'

LD211023Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Mikhaylov Dispatch: "Exerting Pressure"]

[Text] Bonn, 15 February--U.S. Treasury Secretary Blumenthal has had talks lasting more than 3.5 hours here with Federal Chancellor H. Schmidt and the FRG ministers of finance and economics. The American guest demanded that Bonn accelerate the revitalization of the economy by increasing state appropriations. As is clear from press reports, Bonn has not yielded to U.S. pressure this time. This "firmness" is largely accounted for by the difficulties of the West German economy. Before Blumenthal's arrival, the FRG Government stated once again that it could not accelerate the economy by increasing the state debt, which is provided for to the tune of DM30 billion in 1978, as such an increase in investments would inevitably lead to acute inflation and "devaluation" of the West German mark. By all accounts, Washington is seeking precisely this; to weaken the positions of its West German competitors in world markets.

The close interdependence between the West German mark and the U.S. dollar is hitting the FRG economy hard. Direct losses as a result of the fall in the U.S. dollar rate alone have totaled DM7.88 billion, since the FRG's currency reserves consist mainly of U.S. dollars.

The dollar devaluation is having a serious effect on the FRG's export potential. West German goods have risen sharply in price on the U.S. market and throughout the U.S. dollar zone as a result of the fall in the dollar rate (12 percent in 1977 alone). A reduction in export potential is extremely dangerous for the FRG; one-fourth of its industrial output is exported.

Competition among the main capitalist states is assuming increasingly acute forms.

U.S. BLAMED FOR BELGIAN DESIRE FOR HAWK MISSILES

LD212356Y Moscow in French to Europe 2100 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] TASS reports from Brussels: NATO (?ruling) circles continue to advocate the increase in military expenditure. Belgian Defense Minister Vanden Boeynants, in a television address, insisted on the urgent purchase in the United States of U.S. Hawk missiles, which will cost the Belgian taxpayers some F4 (?billion). The defense minister (?justified this transaction) through Belgian commitments toward NATO. To support it, he recalled the (?old) thesis of the Soviet threat. According to the [word indistinct] press, during the visit last fall to the United States by Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans, Defense Secretary Brown accused the Belgian Government of relaxing its military efforts. It was clearly said to the head of the Belgian Government in Washington that in order to remedy the situation, Belgium must increase its military potential and in particular purchase the Hawk missiles.

Shortly afterwards, plans to equip the Belgian Armed Forces with this offensive weapon were conceived in Brussels but faced energetic opposition from wide circles of decmoratic public opinion in the country. The communists, the socialists, the trade unions, the peace and youth organizations condemned these plans. Thus, the leadership of the Socialist Party, a member of the government coalition, recently adopted a resolution disapproving the government's intention to purchase tank missiles. Representatives of more than 40 political, public and religious organizations [word indistinct] decided to hold in the country a national campaign for disarmament [words indistinct]

SOVIET-FINNISH COMMUNIQUE ON PASSENGERS, GOODS TRAFFIC SIGNED

LD181948Y Moscow TASS in English 1742 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, February 18, TASS--A joint Soviet-Finnish communique was issued here. It was signed by I. Pavlovskiy, minister of railways of the USSR and Veikko Saarto, Finnish minister of transport and communications.

The communique points out that matters concerning the transportation of freight and passengers between the two countries as well as to third countries in transit across the USSR and Finland were considered during the talks between the Soviet and Finnish ministers.

The sides stated with satisfaction the growth of the volume of freight and passenger transportations between the two countries. In 1977 alone, the transportation amounted to 5.9 million tons including 1.2 million tons from Finland to the USSR, and 4.7 million tons from the USSR to Finland.

In 1978 the aggregate volume of transportation between the USSR and Finland is to grow by 13.6 percent and amount to 6.7 million tons. Passenger transportation has grown as well: more than 99,000 passengers in 1977.

The long-term programme for the development and deepening of trade, economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and Finland for the period of up to the year 1990 is opening up fresh prospects, the communique points out.

FINLAND'S SORSA CONTINUES FORMATION OF CABINET

LD221436Y Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, February 22, TASS--Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa is continuing consultations at the request of President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen with representatives of the leading political parties on the question of forming a new cabinet.

Addressing a press conference here, Kalevi Sorsa said that the Finnish People's Democratic League, the Social-Democratic Party and the Centre Party had expressed consent to form a new majority cabinet on the former political basis. The government coalition included apart from the above mentioned parties, the Liberal People's Party and the Swedish People's Party. The prime minister noted that the Finnish People's Democratic League, the Social-Democratic Party and the Centre Party expressed a negative attitude to the possibility of cooperation in the government with the National Coalition Party.

Kalevi Sorsa also said he had informed President Urho Kaleva Kekkonen on the results of the first days of the negotiations and the president had proposed forming a majority cabinet on the basis of a coalition of the Finnish People's Democratic League, the Social-Democratic Party of Finland, the Centre Party, the Swedish People's Party and the Liberal People's Party.

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USSR-SYRIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER AL-ASAD VISIT

JN2322267 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Feb 78 JN

["Text" of joint USSR-Syrian communique]

[Text] At the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Council of Ministers, President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, paid an official cordial visit to the USSR from 20 to 23 February 1978, at the head of a Syrian party-government delegation.

Talks were held in a spirit of friendship and understanding between Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium; Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Dimitry Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Soviet defense minister; G.M. Korniyenko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs; S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Yuriy Chernyakov, Soviet ambassador to Syria; M.D. Sytenko, chief of the Near Eastern department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Y.M. Samoteykin, aide to the CPSU Central Committee general secretary; and Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Yusuf al-As'ad, Ba'th Party Command member; Nabih Hassun, Ba'th Party Command member; 'Umar as-Sibai, minister of communications; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information; Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, political adviser to the president; Jabr al-Kafri, Syrian ambassador in Moscow; and 'Adnan Nashhaqah, director of the East European desk in the foreign ministry.

During the talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, that characterizes the USSR-Syrian relations, a detailed and constructive exchange of views took place in regard to Soviet-Syrian relations, the situation in the Middle East and the establishment of a just and durable peace in that area as well as some international questions of interest to both sides.

During the discussion of bilateral relations, the two sides noted with satisfaction that the cordial relations between the USSR and Syria are constantly developing and deepening in the political, partisan, military, economic scientific and technical fields on the basis of equality and mutual respect, independence and noninterference in the internal affairs of the other side. These are the principles contained in the USSR-Syrian joint communique signed by Leonid Brezhnev and Hafiz al-Asad on 13 April, 1974.

The USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic attach primary attention to the development of political relations between them. They feel the strong relations between them in this field are positively reflected in Soviet-Syrian cooperation in other fields. They expressed their determination to continue to develop and bolster this fruitful cooperation of mutual advantage.

The two sides stressed the importance of the meetings among the leaders of both countries. In their opinion, these meetings make a basic contribution to defining the course of the development of Soviet-Syrian relations. They intend to continue consultations between them on other levels, too. They will also seek to strengthen the cordial relations between the Soviet Communist Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The two sides highly praised the level of USSR-Syrian economic cooperation and spoke of its firm, wide scope which primarily covers the various principal aspects of economy: energy, electricity, petrochemical industries, transportation and the building of irrigation installations. This cooperation bolsters the national independence of Syria and its democratic development.

The two sides believe that the construction of Euphrates dam complex, which is the biggest project in the Middle East and which is to be completed at the end of the present year, is of particular importance to the development of the economy of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The two sides also discussed and drew up measures aimed at continuing to raise the level of the defensive capability of the Syrian Arab Republic. In this connection the Syrian side highly praised the constant support and help provided by the Soviet Union and other members of the socialist family to the Arab peoples in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism especially in the current situation in the Middle East.

The two sides expressed their confidence that the firm friendship and close cooperation existing between the Soviet and Syrian peoples accord with the basic interests of the two countries and serve the cause of world peace and security.

The two sides paid particular attention to the situation in the Middle East and denounced Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its refusal to recognize the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. As a result of this, the region continues to be an explosive hotbed of tension, posing a danger to world peace and security. The two sides are convinced that the separate talks between Egypt and Israel do grave damage to the interests of the Arab people because they aim at frustrating an overall, just settlement to the Middle East crisis. The two sides firmly condemn the Egyptian Government's capitulationist actions which split the Arab states' unity and are directed against the struggle of the Arab and African people for national liberation and independence. The USSR and Syria reject the course of separate deals as a means for a settlement in the Middle East. They believe that it serves the long-standing ambitions of Israel and the imperialist powers, namely to frustrate the struggle of the Arabs to achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

The USSR and Syria feel that it is very important to unify and coordinate the actions of all progressive forces. This, in the deep conviction of both sides, is one of the decisive factors in the struggle to eliminate the effects of Israeli aggression, insure the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine and establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In this connection, the Soviet side referred to the positive role played by the conferences of the leaders of the progressive Arab states and the PLO in Tripoli in December 1977 and in Algiers in February 1978 to strengthen their solidarity and the unity of their actions in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and unilateral decisions.

The Soviet side also pointed to the important contribution made by Syria in the consolidation of the Arab rejection of the road of separate deals. The Syrian side greatly praised the all-round support the Soviet Union provides for the progressive Arab states and confirmed the need for its participation in the settlement process in the Middle East in all its stages on the basis of UN resolutions concerning this matter.

Both sides confirmed the need to consolidate the friendly relations between the Arab peoples and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. They declared their intention to continue to confront all attempts to undermine Soviet-Arab friendship. Both sides expressed their firm intention to continue the joint efforts for the achievement of a comprehensive and just settlement on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, and also meeting the firm national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including its right to self-determination and establish its independent state and also the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland in accordance with UN resolutions.

All concerned parties should take part in these efforts, including the PLO--the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. When discussing the international situation both sides noted the wide agreement of their views on the basic issues of the hour. The Soviet Union and Syria consider the struggle for the consolidation of world peace and the people's security and for general and complete disarmament, international relaxation and the elimination of dangerous hotbeds of tension, a basic direction of their foreign policy. Both sides expressed readiness to continue making rapid efforts to deepen the process of detente. In this regard they note the Soviet-sponsored UN resolution of 19 December 1977 on deepening and consolidating international relaxation, has become an important stage in the struggle for consolidating positive changes in international relations, strengthening peace and warding off the danger of war. Both sides expressed readiness to work firmly to spread relaxation to all regions and establish the principles of peaceful coexistence in relations among states with different social systems.

The USSR and Syria will work for the rapid conclusion of a world treaty on the nonuse of force in international relations to insure the refrainment of the signatories to the treaty from the use of arms including nuclear arms. The two sides feel that the conclusion of such a treaty will have a positive effect on the world situation and will help to safeguard international security.

The two sides referred to the importance of the special session the UN General Assembly will be holding this year to discuss the question of disarmament, which the two sides consider to be an important step on the road to a world disarmament conference. They emphasized once more the importance of holding such conference with the participation of all countries to insure progress toward new positions in the struggle for ending the arms race and for adopting tangible measures for disarmament.

The two sides call for the comprehensive and total ban of tests on nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and the production and use of the new types and systems of mass destruction weapons including the neutron bomb.

The Syrian side expressed its support for the Soviet proposal concerning the halting of the production of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of nuclear arms stockpile.

The USSR and Syria affirmed the importance of the alliance of the world socialist forces and the national liberation movements in the struggle for world peace and security and for the people's freedom and independence. The two sides will work to bolster the solidarity between the socialist community and the nonalined and developing countries which are natural allies in this struggle.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides denounced the imperialist interference in the affairs of this area and expressed their deep concern over the development of events there. The USSR and Syria will continue to contribute to the cause of the liberation of the African Continent from the hegemony of neocolonialism and imperialism and will work for the liquidation of colonialism completely and finally in accordance with the UN General Assembly declaration on the granting of independence to the colonized peoples and countries.

The two sides denounced the military intervention of the imperialist states and neocolonialism in the affairs of the African countries. They strongly oppose the policy of racial discrimination wherever it may be and support the liquidation of the racist regimes in southern Africa and the handing over of all powers to the people of Zimbabwe and the granting of independence to Namibia.

The USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic affirmed the importance they attach to strengthening the role of the United Nations with regard to bolstering world peace and security on the basis of strict adherence to the objectives and principles of its charter.

Hafiz al-Asad expressed to the leaders and people of the USSR his thanks for the welcome he and members of his delegation have received during the visit.

Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, invited Leonid Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers to visit the Syrian Arab Republic. The invitation was accepted thankfully and its date will be fixed later.

Al-Asad Makes Statement

LD231542Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Statement by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before leaving Moscow today--recorded]

[Text] During this visit I had a meeting with Chairman Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders. We discussed several issues, including relations between our two countries. We agreed on the need to consolidate and promote these relations in various fields. Committees from both countries will meet in the near future to discuss steps in this direction. We also discussed the situation which is occurring in the Middle East. Our viewpoints are in full agreement. On this occasion I would like to express my thanks to Mr Chairman and the Soviet leadership and people for their constant, principled stand in support of the just struggle of the Arab nation for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and for the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Generally speaking, I would like to say that our meetings were successful, useful and fruitful. This was the case at every meeting that took place between us and the Soviet leadership. It pleases me that our meeting took place at a time when the Soviet people are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. We were pleased to share with the Soviet leadership and the Soviet Armed Forces and masses their celebrations on the occasion. In my name, in the name of the Syrian delegation and in the name of the Syrian Arab people I wish them progress and prosperity.

Telegram to Brezhnev

LD232146Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Syrian President al-Asad has left the USSR. After his visit which included talks, a communique was issued.

"On the way home, he sent a telegram to Comrade Brezhnev from aboard the airplane, in which he expressed satisfaction with the talks and gave a high estimation of the Soviet Union's support for the just struggle of the Arabs."

SYRIAN PRESIDENT URGES ACTIVE SOVIET ROLE IN MIDEAST PEACE

LD231350Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The official visit to the Soviet Union by Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad has ended. For the Soviet side the participants in the talks included the Soviet Communist Party's General Secretary, President Leonid Brezhnev, and other Soviet leaders. Our observer Valentin Lapin comments.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. This is the result of regular personal contacts between the leaders of the two countries and a reflection of the common interests and goals of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Syria. The Soviet people and Syrians equally hold dear the great cause of freedom and the independence of peoples. Syria and the Soviet Union stand for peace and progress, they are irreconcilable toward imperialist aggression, colonialism and racism. They stand for the elimination of the seats of tension in the Middle East and other areas.

Speaking at a festive meeting in the Kremlin in honor of President al-Asad, Leonid Brezhnev said a Middle East peace settlement should include the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, implementing the integral rights of the Arab people of Palestine, among them the right to form their own state, and insuring the independent existence and the security of all countries in the region. Syria, too, stands for achieving a comprehensive and just settlement. The Soviet Union values highly the active part Syria is playing in strengthening the Arab struggle, opposing the trends of appeasement and surrender--trends that are seen in the policy line of making separate deals with Israel, the aggressor. Following that line, the Egyptian leadership is giving up one common Arab poisition after another. As a result, a Middle East settlement is being made more remote.

The separatist maneuvers encouraged by the imperialists have seriously aggravated the situation in the Middle East. Now the unity of Arab countries is particularly important. The progressive Arab regimes and the Palestine Liberation Organization also stress the need to strengthen cooperation with the Arabs' natural allies--the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. President al-Asad emphasized in his speech in Moscow that without active Soviet participation a just peace in the Middle East can hardly be achieved. The Soviet Union and Syria urge a return from (?dead-end) separatist negotiations to the Geneva peace conference.

The talks in Moscow confirmed the two nations' joint desire to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union and Syria have expressed their determination to strengthen mutual cooperation and friendship, which is in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the interests of all progressive forces and peoples of the Arab east.

EUPHRATES POWER COMPLEX SYMBOL OF SOVIET-SYRIAN EFFORTS

LD181200Y Moscow TASS in English 0803 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Moscow, February 18, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stroganov writes:

The eighth generating set of the Euphrates hydropower complex will soon go into operation. This major project of Syria's social and economic development holds an important place in the economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic.

When the construction of the complex is completed, the threat of floods will be removed, water will be brought to vast lands, areas under cotton and other crops will be expanded. True to the Leninist principles of strengthening friendship and cooperation with peoples that took to the road of independent economic development, the Soviet Government gave to Syria free of charge various building equipment, farm machinery and other equipment for creation of state economies in the zone of the complex.

Syria is the first Arab country to conduct commercial oil extraction without participation of imperialist monopolies. The Soviet Union gives disinterested assistance in the development of this industry.

Using rich experience of Soviet colleagues, Syrian oil workers succeeded in increasing the 1968 level of oil extraction by approximately ten-fold.

Cooperation of the two countries in other spheres is also developing successfully. Large-scale irrigation construction is being conducted. A plant of nitric fertilizers was commissioned and a network of railways was expanded. This is aimed at further development of Syria's remote districts.

The two countries maintain versatile contacts and exchanges in the sphere of culture, education, health services. The volume of Syrian deliveries to the USSR is growing. The mutual trade turnover will increase by 50 per cent in 1976-1980.

WEAKENED U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS BLAMED ON U.S. SELFISHNESS

TA201729Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 19 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The United States remains an ally of Israel but it will no longer give Israel unconditional support. This is the opinion on the French newspaper, LE'EXPRESSE. This view is not a new one. A great deal is being written about the fact that cracks are appearing in the walls of the edifice of the Israeli-American alliance. Those who like seeing exact dates can even point to the date when, in their opinion, these cracks became absolutely clear--17 March of last year. On the morning of that day the U.S. President, for the first time, used the term homeland--a national home--with respect to Palestinian rights, and that evening he publicly shook hands with the PLO representative at the United Nations.

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Quite some time has elapsed since 17 March and many events have occurred international countries [as heard], including the Middle East--the place where the separate talks between Israel and Egypt began with a bang and then went on the wane. The talks are being conducted in accordance with U.S. dictates. At the same time, Begin is trying to stress the stability of U.S.-Israel relations. However, there are many proofs that these more closely resemble a marriage of convenience than an alliance. Therefore gossip appears in the press frequently concerning the opposing views of the United States and Israel, and the supporters of these assessments are bringing more and more proofs confirming their assessment.

For the Israelis themselves, the question of the character of the alliance between their country and the power across the sea is not an isolated question but has a concrete continuation in ideology, the social structure and the economic situation. Here we have to [work indistinct] at the main issue which is being distorted by a crooked, tendentious mirror. The main issue is that the United States is taking advantage of Israel for its own interests, which are opposed to the interests of the Israeli people. The talk about the Israeli lobby in the U.S. Congress and the great weight carried by Jews in the industrial and financial world in the United States has a foundation, of course. However, first of all, as the MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE writes, the power of the Israeli lobby is sometimes exaggerated, and second, as the chairman of the U.S. Jewish Congress said, the Israelis are relatives of the Jewish community, but very distant ones. The Israeli lobby is far from being able to direct the [word indistinct] in the United States as it wishes. Israel cannot hope for the support of all U.S. Jews. No one opposes Israel, said the daughter of a businessman, Naomi Feinstein; the question is how great is the support.

The United States has totally subjugated Israel to its interests. It is clear that this has not been done without the enthusiastic support of Israel's past and present leaders. It is clear that the very character of Israel's political structure has enabled this. The situation today is as follows: Israel is one of the cards in the network of imperialism and enters the game when required by those holding the cards. The United States is now making efforts to introduce into its game in the Middle East not only Israel but also Arab reaction, including Egypt's present government. The value of the Israeli card has declined. This worries Begin, and this produces the cracks in the structure of the alliance.

An activist in the American Jewish organization, Brera, said, we have been floating in the clouds for too long. We are inebriated by Israel's military victory. We have ignored the problems that this victory has created for the United States.

What are the problems, therefore, facing the United States in the part of the world where Israel is located? To strengthen, as far as possible, and expand its influence in the oil region of the Middle East and to restore imperialism's lost positions on the African continent--a [work indistinct] plan and all its details are tied in with adventurous politics, military threats and the use of force. In this plan Israel must play the role assigned to it. Such willful dependence not only places Israel in an uncomfortable position in its relations with the world around it, but also has a negative influence on life within the country. The new budget submitted to the Knesset by the Begin government shows that the process of a continued militarization of the economy has caused a decline in the material well-being of the Israeli population. The government's economic measures prove that the rights of the workers in Israel are withering away and the bourgeoisie is accummulating power and material means. The increase in influence of the religious zealots and the forces of the extreme right point to a relapse in social development in Israel.

The ideology of the first workers has given way to a consumer society imitating the American lifestyle, newspaper LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE writes about Israel, without achieving peace and fulfilling the material needs of its citizens. On the other hand, Israel has gained all the defects of the American lifestyle and, in addition, is consistently losing its international positions and its hopes for the future. This is the reward for this wretched friendship and for participation in the foreign and dangerous game.

ISRAEL CONTINUES 'PLUNDERING' OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

ID240816Y Moscow TASS in English 0724 GMT 24 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Amman, February 24, TASS--Israel continues plundering natural resources in the occupied Arab territories.

Two wells have been drilled in Sinai Peninsula near the town of El-Tur. The wells anually (?yield several) thousands (?barrels) of oil. It has been estimated that the production of oil from this deposit alone will be able to satisfy more than thirteen per cent of Israel's requirements for fuel.

It is pointed out that Tel Aviv's expansionist activity markedly increased after separate talks by Egyptian President as-Sadat who by his actions gave the green light to the Israeli rulers' colonising activities.

ISRAEL STEPS UP 'PROVOCATIONS' AGAINST LEBANON

LD231313Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 78 p 3 ID

[Correspondent K. Geyvandov dispatch: "Tel Aviv's Provocations"]

[Text] Beirut, 19 February--According to Lebanese press reports, the Israeli military is stepping up its provocative activities against Lebanon's southern regions. The newspaper ASH-SHARQ writes: Israeli Army units have carried out an attack on seven Lebanese villages situated in the border zone.

A conference of leaders of Palestinian organizations and the Lebanese national patriotic forces front has been convened on the initiative of Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reports, to discuss the question "on the military situation in connection with the Israeli provocations in south Lebanon" and to coordinate measures to rebuff the aggressor.

The Lebanese Government's official news organs have accused Israeli radio of deliberately spreading false rumors about the situation in Lebanon.

LEBANESE CONSERVATIVES ACCUSED OF IMPEDING NORMALIZATION

ID240002Y Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 23 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Beirut, February 23, TASS--The Lebanese political circles are holding active consultations to stabilize the situation in the country.

In the course of these consultations the national-patriotic forces of Lebanon speak for democratic reforms on the basis of the unity of the country and the strengthening of central power. They confirm their readiness to come to the negotiating table to achieve these purposes. A statement by Chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon Walid Jumblatt, published here, stresses that the normalization of the situation cannot be achieved without the national unity of all the political forces, without strengthening the army that could defend from the Israeli aggression.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the conservative "Lebanese front", are using different manoeuvres to postpone a possible national dialogue and impede the process of normalization.

Yesterday, several bombs were exploded in different parts of Beirut, wounding a number of people. Tension persists in the south of the country, where the Israeli artillery, last night, shelled the settlements of Al-Khayyam, Marji 'Uyun and an Nabatiyah. These barbarous acts caused much damage to civic buildings. Trying to escape from artillery fire, peaceful population in the southern parts of the country have to leave their homes and go deep into the country.

AL-QADHDHAFI SCORES AS-SADAT'S POLICIES IN INTERVIEW

ID231238Y Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 23 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Bonn, February 23 TASS--President as-Sadat's capitulatory policy was sharply criticized by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the secretary-general of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Interviewed by a DER SPIEGEL correspondent, he declared that the mass of the Arabs from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic rejected the Egyptian president's "peace initiative". In doing so, they are not against peace, but against the means through which Egypt's President as-Sadat seeks to reach it. Peace cannot be begged for from the aggressor. Striving for peace, it is necessary to insist on one's rights and not to abandon them.

No matter how As-Sadat tried to disguise his capitulatory policy, Al-Qadhdhafi went on to say, he will not succeed in concealing the truth. He betrayed not only Egypt, but the entire Arab nation.

Formulating the main conditions for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, the Libyan leader stressed the need of the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories and of granting the Palestinian people the right to live in their homeland. He emphasised that the PLO, recognized throughout the world as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people, must take part in a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed Libya's resolve to continue rendering all-round assistance and support to the Palestine resistance movement and Syria, which are in the front line of the struggle for the elimination of the consequences of the Israeli aggression.

ICATU TRANSFERS HEADQUARTERS FROM CAIRO TO DAMASCUS

LD171914Y Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, February 17, TASS--The extraordinary congress of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, which has ended here, ruled to transfer the headquarters of the confederation's General Secretariat from Cairo to Damascus. This decision was taken in protest against as-Sadat's capitulatory course aimed at achieving a separate settlement with Israel, against the stand of the Egyptian Federation of Labour, whose opportunistic leadership backed the anti-Arab actions of the Egyptian president.

The delegates elected Nasir al-Faraj, the leader of the General Confederation of Kuwait Workers, as president of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, and Abu Baku Jallud, the chairman of the Administrative Council of the General Federation of Workers' Trade Unions of Libya, as the confederation's secretary general. Previously both these posts were held by representatives of the Egyptian Federation of Labour, which the congress stripped of membership in the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions.

ADDITIONS TO KOSYGIN-JALLUD DISCUSSIONS

The following additions to the item entitled "Libya's Jallud Continues USSR Visit, Meets Soviet Leaders" and subtitled "Kosygin-Jallud Discussions," published in the 16 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 2, were taken from PRAVDA of 16 February, which notes that the talks were also attended on the Soviet side by S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; and L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy foreign minister; and on the Libyan side by Jum'ah al-Arbash, secretary for electricity, and Muhammad Sidqi Sha'ban, assistant secretary for political questions in the foreign affairs secretariat.

CORRECTION TO KOSYGIN SPEECH AT DINNER FOR JALLUD

The following correction to the item entitled "Jallud, Libyan Delegation Continue Moscow Visit; Dinner Held" and subtitled "Kosygin Speaks at Dinner," published in the 12 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 2, is supplied from PRAVDA of 17 February: Page F 3, second paragraph, line seven should read:...Arab interests into small change that the solution...

CORRECTION TO JALLUD SPEECH AT KREMLIN DINNER

The following correction to the item entitled "Jallud, Libyan Delegation Continue Moscow Visit; Dinner Held" and subtitled "Jallud's Reply," published in the 12 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 4, is supplied from PRAVDA of 17 February: Page F 5, paragraph two, line three should read:...Union which strengthened their hopes considerably. The Arab...

EGYPTIAN COMMANDO STRIKE AT LARNACA CRITICIZED

LD232034Y Moscow TASS in English 2012 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

["Conspiracy of Imperialism and Zionism"--TASS headline]

[Text] Nicosia, February 23 TASS--President S. Kiprianou of Cyprus deplored Egypt's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Cyprus. He described as insulting for Cyprus and for himself yesterday's speech by As-Sadat who rudely attacked Cyprus and its president. We made it abundantly clear to Egyptian representatives that any armed operation at Larnaca Airport was inadmissible. The president of Cyprus said that the terrorists who killed Yusuf as-Siba'i, general secretary of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, are to go on trial in Cyprus.

The Cypriot newspaper TA NEA published today an article saying that the USA, Israel and Egypt were involved in this terrorist action. Referring to well-informed sources, the newspaper says that this assassination was arranged by agents of the Israeli intelligence service and the CIA in cooperation with the As-Sadat regime. This conspiracy, the newspaper says, had far-reaching aims, namely not only to discredit the Palestinians whom As-Sadat groundlessly accused of having killed Yusuf as-Siba'i, to discredit the Palestinian revolution and the national liberation movement but also to undermine Cyprus as a state, the prestige of Cyprus and its president in order to replace him by another man who would serve pro-Western interests.

Cairo, February 23 TASS--A MENA correspondent says in his Washington dispatch referring to well-informed circles, that President Carter supported As-Sadat's decision to send a unit of commandos for an armed action at Larnaca international airport in Cyprus. This support, MENA says, was expressed in President Carter's message to As-Sadat.

Algiers, February 23 TASS--The newspaper ASH-SHA'B writes that when sending his soldiers to Cyprus the Egyptian president hoped to put pressure on the government of that country which has never concealed his sympathies for the Palestinian people. But, the newspaper says, As-Sadat suffered again with a political fiasco, just as he did during his talks with the Israeli leaders.

Ankara, February 23 TASS--The Turkish press is sharply critical of Egypt's armed attack on Larnaca Airport. The As-Sadat regime has thus proved its bankruptcy and showed that it is serving world imperialism, the newspaper CUMHURIYET says.

The newspaper POLITIKA warns the Middle East countries about the danger of the policy of As-Sadat who has become of his own free will a propenent of the interests of colonialism and imperialism.

Need To Safeguard Sovereignty

LD231935Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 23 February--"The Larnaca airport incident shows what deplorable results can follow if the norms of interstate relations are infringed on the pretext of struggle against criminals," writes IZVESTIYA political observer Stanislav Kondrashov. "While Yusuf as-Siba'i, Egyptian writer and public figure, fell victim to criminal terrorists the Egyptian soldiers fell victim to the behavior of their own government, which failed to display the necessary sense of responsibility and very thoughtlessly violated the norms of international law. Thus it happened that by their action the Egyptian authorities in a way laid the funeral wreath for 15 of his followcountrymen on As-Siba'i's grave."

There is no doubt as to who is guilty for what happened, for the loss of life, the observer emphasizes. And yet to conceal its guilt from the Egyptian people Cairo is piling up a diplomatic scandal on top of the adventure. Ignoring Nicosia's appeal for reason As-Sadat has broken off relations with the Republic of Cyprus--as he had done earlier, let us remember, with a number of Arab states which had condemned his adventurous policy. Although the PLO and other Palestinian organizations have condemned the terrorist act of assassinating As-Siba'i and have denied any part in it, Cairo has unleased yet another anti-Palestinian campaign whose hidden aim is to justify attempts to clinch a separate deal with Israel.

There was a time when Egypt condemned the raid by Israeli "commandos" on Entebbe airport in Uganda in July 1976, which resembled an act of aggression, but now it has issued precisely the Israeli method, Kondrashov notes. And indeed, what affects you depends on whom you associate with. Cairo succumbed to the temptation to demonstrate its military muscle, but its improvisation ended in discomfiture, and a bloody one at that. One more motive can be discerned: the organizers and participants of the raid on Entebbe airport were praised to the skies by Western propaganda, which made them into heroes of books, films and television programs. Somebody in Cairo evidently grew envious of those questionable laurels. Do the latest events not show that someone has taken a fancy to astounding the world by stunning sensations and theatrical gestures made for political purposes? These do not, of course, always bring forth applause.

"International terrorism deserves the sternest condemnation and the most energetic resistance. It is in the interest of every country to combat it. But must it be stated that this does not do away with international law and the necessity to safeguard strictly the sovereignty of other states?"

CYPRUS ISSUE NOT SEEN AS TOPIC FOR GREEK-TURKISH DIALOG

LD221555Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Correspondent B. Lipovoy dispatch: "For a Just Settlement"]

[Text] Athens--Talks have begun in Athens between S. Kyprianou, president of the Republic of Cyprus, who has arrived here on an official visit, and Prime Minister Karamanlis of Greece.

The Cyprus problem occupies a central place in the talks. As is known, a number of important initiatives have recently been taken by the UN secretary general aimed at the resumption of intercommunal talks on Cyprus towards achieving a just and peaceful solution to the problems of this island. On his arrival in Athens Kyprianou made a statement in which he reaffirmed that the Cyprus problem is of an international nature and cannot be the topic of a Greek-Turkish dialog. A settlement of the problem must be brought about on the basis of the well-known UN resolutions on Cyprus and under the aegis of this international organization.

U.S. NAVY SHIPS NEAR HORN OF AFRICA LISTED

LD221702Y Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 22, TASS--The United States increases its military presence in the Indian Ocean.

As the Pentagon announced officially, another four-ship squadron of the U.S. Navy was transferred to that part of the world. The squadron, consisting of missile-carrying cruiser "Fox," frigates "Ouellet" and "Stein" and squadron tanker "Hassayampa", must serve as a "reinforcement" of three American destroyers, "Davis", Julius Furer" and "Truett," which already ply along the northeastern coast of Africa. Another show of force by the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean is being viewed by observers as an attempt of the United States to exert influence on the development of events in the area of the Horn of Africa.

CONTINUING MATERIAL ON SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA CONFLICT

Aaron Visit

LD232014Y Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Georgiy Tanov commentary]

[Text] The recent short visit made to Addis Ababa by David Aaron, assistant to the United States presidential adviser for national security, has not escaped the attention of the West. Aaron had brought with him a special message from President Carter. In the opinion of the French L'ECHO, the U.S. President has warned (?against) the danger of crossing the Somali border by the Ethiopian Army. The British GUARDIAN, in turn, maintains that in the message the United States has once again promised to refrain from supplying arms to the Horn of Africa.

It is possible, writes our commentator, Georgiy Tanov, that both views are correct. In any case, they were confirmed by President Carter himself at a recent press conference at the White House. This, however, brings up at least two questions. First, Ethiopia has more than once officially declared that it does not intend to cross the border with Somalia, that its only aim is to free that part of its territory which is occupied by Somali troops. (?The question is:) Why should, then, the United States force an open door? Besides, so far as we remember, Washington did not forward any special presidential messages to Mogadiscio when Somalia unleashed its aggression against Ethiopia late last July. And there is one more question. American weapons are reaching the aggressive country, Somalia, through both secret and nonsecret channels. This is a fact which even the United States State Department admits; at least it does not deny it. And if this is so, what is the idea of rushing a special envoy to Addis Ababa with a message from the United States President? An answer, we think, should be sought in the failure of attempts by the West, the United States included, to suppress the Ethiopian revolution, to change the course of events in the northeast of Africa by military means, that is, by using a direct intervention of third countries. It is this failure that now makes Washington to take urgent measures to play safe.

It's obvious that the United States is seeking to excuse itself on the moral and political (?stand), to play the part of an active and impartial peacemaker, so to say, the generator of constructive diplomatic effort. It is probable that the brief trip of David Aaron to Addis Ababa is viewed in Washington as the beginning of yet another round of the notorious U.S. shuttle diplomacy, this time in another part of the world. Then one cannot help drawing an analogy with two other dangerous spots of tension, one in the Middle East and the other in southern Africa. Those regions have already for long been a scene of American diplomatic exercises. It's also well known that such practices lead to nothing but delays in the settlement of urgent problems.

What we'd like to add is that the response of Addis Ababa to Aaron's visit was perfectly definite. The leaders of the Provisional Military Administrative Council told him that revolutionary Ethiopia strongly denounces interference in her internal affairs and the support Western countries, the United States in the first place, are giving to Somalia's aggressive actions.

ETHIOPIAN UN Representative

ID240838Y Moscow TASS in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 24, TASS--"Ethiopia's people are fully determined to continue the struggle in order to strengthen the gains of their revolution, to repulse the aggression from Somalia, which is encouraged by NATO countries and some Arab reactionary regimes. In this struggle Ethipia's people will firmly abide by the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, above all the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries." This has been stated by Ethipia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mohammed Hamid Ibrahim.

Talking to journalists, he denounced Western imperialist interference in the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia and categorically turned down the attempts to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries which extended a helping hand to the Ethiopian people. "NATO countries and some reactionary Arab regimes," said Mohammed Ibrahim, "interfere in the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict by supplying the aggressor with arms and ammunition. They encourage in every way Somalia's aggression and pursue a policy aimed at stifling the Ethiopian revolution."

Somalia is being used by the forces of neocolonialism as a tool of imperialist interference in affairs of African peoples, said Ethiopia's representative. Therefore, the people and the Government of Ethiopia, using their legitimate right to self-defense, are ready to give a worthy rebuff to the aggressor's troops. Ethiopia's representative highly appreciated the disinterested, friendly assistance being given to the Ethiopian people's just struggle by the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other socialist countries and all progressive and peace-loving forces. Mohammed Ibrahim has reaffirmed that his government stands for settlement of the conflict with Somalia through peace negotiations, specifically within the framework of the Organization of African Unity and in the spirit of African unity on the basis of the sides' mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers. An undelayed withdrawal of the Somali troops from Ethiopia's territory should be a preliminary condition for such a settlement, he said.

Ethiopia's representative strongly criticised the unseemly stand of China which, he said, jointly with NATO countries and reactionary Arab regimes, supplies arms to Somalia. There is no doubt, he stressed, that China sides with the aggressor and, thereby, comes out against the Ethiopian revolution.

Situation in Eastern Ethiopia

ID231534Y Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

["Ethiopia Fighting and Building"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 23, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Ustimenko reports:

Many areas in the eastern part of Ethiopia have been liberated as a result of successful offensive operations launched in the recent weeks by the armed forces and people's militia units of Ethiopia. Peasants are gradually returning to native villages. Fires are made at huts built in a hurry and mud houses that survived. The gathering in of the overdue harvest begins on fields with sunrise.

The Somali Army is retreating in many sections, sustaining serious losses. The Somali rulers desperately appeal to Western countries and the reactionary Arab regimes for aid. Ever new foreign ship-loads of tanks, guns and shells arrive in Mogadiscio, Berbera and Merca in reply to these appeals. Planes with ammunition, fire arms and spares touch down. By their broad military deliveries the NATO countries and their placement in the Arab east actually encourage the aggressor and prevent a peace settlement of the conflict.

Ceasefire "proposals" are now being made in Mogadiscio and a number of Western capitals but the aggressor, as before, stubbornly refuses to withdraw its troops from Ethiopia.

Laying bare this propaganda subterfuge, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Mengistu Haile Mariam emphasized that any negotiations on establishing goodneighbourly relations with Somalia can be held only after the aggressor's last soldier leaves Ethiopia's land.

Revolutionary Ethiopia is fighting not only in the east but also in the north--against units of separatists backed by extensive assistance of reactionary Arab regimes. They aim at establishing in Eritrea a vassal state in order to set their control over the Red Sea.

Gangs of reactionaries, knocked together by former feudals and counter-revolutionary groupings, are operating in town and countryside.

But the entire working people are raising up for defence of the revolution. New volunteers join people's militia units. Money is being collected for the defence fund. The donor movement has assumed a wide scope.

Repelling the designs of aggressors and reaction, Ethiopia continues peaceful construction. The new revolutionary government bodies--rural and urban associations--are gaining in strength. Schools and kindergartens are under construction, roads are being driven, production is on the rise in cooperatives and state fams, at industrial enterprises put under state control. The preparatory work towards forming a party of the working class, guided by the Marxist-Leninist teaching, is successfully under way.

Hararge Meeting

LD240934Y Moscow TASS in English 0917 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 24, TASS--A mass meeting of protest against the plot of the aggressive NATO bloc and the reactionary Arab regimes with regard to the revolutionary Ethiopia, in support of the policy of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, was held in the town of Deder, Hararge Province. The meeting was attended by representatives of trade unions, representatives of peasant and urban dwellers associations, mass organizations. They expressed the confidence that the progressive forces will win over internal and external reaction and [that] the Somali aggressors who invaded the country will be driven out.

Arusi Committee

LD240820Y Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 24, TASS--A special committee for resistance to counter-revolutionary groupings was set up in the Ethiopian Province of Arusi. On the committee are representatives of workers, peasants, youth and women's organizations.

A report of the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY points out that the primary purpose of the committee is to clear the province of the remains of the terrorist bands and to consolidate people's power there.

VLASOV LEADS CPSU DELEGATION TO MOZAMBIQUE 19 FEB

LD231355Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by A.V. Vlasov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Chechen-Ingushskaya Obkom, left for Mozambique on 19 February at the invitation of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party.

NETO REMARKS ON APPOINTING ENVOY TO USSR REPORTED

LD171711Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb78 p 4 LD

[Report by correspondent V. Volkov: "Devotion to Solidarity"]

[Text] Luanda, 14 February--While strengthening good neighborly relations with the African countries and fulfilling their international duty with regard to the fighters for national liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, Angolans must remember that our devotion to international solidarity came about thanks to close relations with the Soviet Union, Cuba and the other countries of the socialist community. This was stated by A. Neto, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party and president of Angola, during a ceremony to appoint the first Angolan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, Carlos Fernandes.

A. Neto noted that Angola must comprehensively strengthen its ties with the European socialist countries, which have always displayed an understanding of the Angolan people's problems, and strengthen its desire for cooperation. "We must always remember and value this," A. Neto said in conclusion.

TASS NOW AVAILABLE IN SEYCHELLES CAPITAL

LD212022Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The capital city of the Seychelles, Victoria, has begun receiving regular information from the Soviet news agency TASS. Speaking on the occasion, the presidential minister of states James Michelle, said that from now on the citizens of the republic will be able to know everything about what is happening in the world and that will be unbiased information.

The state minister thanked the Soviet Union for helping develop the news agency of the young republic.

CONCEPT OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE DISCUSSED

LD2310047 Moscow TASS in English 0833 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23 TASS--TASS commentator Yuriy Trushin writes:

The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest. Its waters wash tens of Asian and African countries accounting now for a quarter of mankind. Traditional routes of international seaborne trade and shipping run across it. Therefore, the peoples of that area, which have embarked on the road of independent development after the collapse of the colonialist system of imperialism, are vitally interested in preventing the Indian Ocean from becoming an area of dangerous confrontation.

The idea of turning the Indian Ocean basin into a peace zone, which was put forward by the Sri Lanka republic a few years ago, has been supported, by most countries in the region. It has also been supported by the Soviet Union following its peace policy and consistently coming out for the creation of peace zones, of nuclear-free zones. The week of action against the imperialist bases in the Indian Ocean and for proclaiming it a peace zone, which was held from February 17 to 23 on the initiative of the World Peace Council, has borne out again that the task of turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone meets with increasingly active support from international public.

In their statements in the course of the week, prominent public figures of many countries in that region and the press repeatedly stressed that the resolution of this problem is hampered above all by the wide network of U.S. military bases sprawling from the coast of Africa to Australia. In spite of numerous protests, the United States continues building at an accelerated rate ever new bases, in particular, in Diego Garcia Island. The USA is now particularly active in its military effort in the Persian Gulf area, which is part of the Indian Ocean.

Britain preserves its military presence "east of Suez". France also has its "strongpoints" in the Indian Ocean. The foreign bases of the Western powers serve as a weapon for bringing pressure to bear on the freedom-loving countries of the Indian Ocean with the aim of making them pursue a policy advantageous to the capitalist West. Therefore, the public of these countries vigorously supports the recent appeal by the all-Indian peace and solidarity organization to all the littoral states of the Indian Ocean calling for the exposure of the imperialist designs in that region and for counteraction to them.

The Soviet Union, supporting the striving of the peoples of the Indian Ocean to peace and security, has more than once put forward proposals opening a real way to the resolution of this important international problem. Addressing the 22nd session of the UN General Assembly, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko reaffirmed the Soviet Union's sympathetic attitude to the idea of turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone, stressing that the main prerequisite for it is the dismantling of the foreign military bases existing in its basin and prevention of the creation of new ones. This is precisely the main aim of the efforts by the public in that region.

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH GOODS PROTOCOL--The Soviet Union and Bangladesh signed a protocol on Wednesday on mutual goods deliveries this year. Trade will increase by about 20 percent. The Soviet Union will export machines, equipment, oil products, metal and cotton. On its part Bangladesh will deliver jute and jute goods, tea, leatherware materials and industrial goods. [Text] [Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD]

DRAFT COOPERATION TREATY IMPROVES USSR-JAPAN RELATIONS

LD231312Y Moscow TASS in English 1301 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23, TASS--The newspaper IZVESTIYA published today a commentary under the headline "In the Interests of Goodneighborliness" saying: In the course of the Soviet-Japanese talks held in Moscow in January this year between member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Donoda, the Soviet side reaffirmed the proposal on exchanging views and concluding a treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation between the two countries. The Japanese minister was handed the draft of such a treaty, which is published today. General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev noted in his answers to the questions of editor-in-chief of the Japanese newspaper ASAHI, S. Hata, in June 1977 that the Soviet proposal on a treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation had been made considering the fact that Japan is not prepared so far to conclude a peace treaty. The Soviet proposal is also suggested by the striving to establish genuinely good relations between the two countries.

The treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation shall cover those fields of Soviet-Japanese relations that have ripened for placing them on a firm contractual basis. Under the Soviet draft treaty it shall seal the following main commitments of the parties: Disputes shall be decided only be peaceful means, and the parties shall refrain from the threat of force or its use; shall not allow the use of their territory for actions that can be detrimental to the security of the other part; shall refrain from any actions encouraging any third party to launch aggressive actions against either of the contracting parties; shall hold regular political consultations, including if a situation arises that is dangerous for maintaining peace; shall continue efforts for ending the arms race, of both nuclear and conventional types, and attainment of general and complete disarmament under effective international control; shall promote a widening of mutual cooperation in the fields of economy, science, technology, culture, rational use of biological resources of the world ocean, etc. It is quite obvious that if such a treaty is concluded, it would raise Soviet-Japanese relations to a new level, contribute to a deepening of mutual trust, open new vistas for a reliable development of mutually advantageous links and contacts in various fields, in the first place in the field of political relations.

As seen from the published draft, the proposal of the Soviet Union on concluding a treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation does not resolve the question of a peace treaty between the USSR and Japan in regard of which the Soviet side is ready to place on record the intention to continue negotiations. The implementation of the Soviet proposal far from adjourning this question, as some people are trying to say in Japan, but would on the contrary improve the situation for talks on a peace treaty. [sentence as received] It must be stressed that the treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation proposed by the Soviet Union would not be detrimental to the relations of the USSR and Japan with third countries and would not infringe upon the interests of other states.

For strengthening peace and security in the Far East, in the Pacific and all over the world, the Soviet Union also proposes to seal in the treaty the provision that the USSR and Japan do not claim themselves and do not recognize anyone's claims to any special rights or advantages in world affairs, including claims to domination in Asia and in the area of the Far East. The draft treaty on goodneighborhood and cooperation turned over to the Japanese Government could, if of course, the Japanese side is prepared to substantiate with actual deeds its statements about the striving for friendly goodneighbor relations with the Soviet Union, serve as a real basis for laying a strong contractual foundation for Soviet-Japanese relations. The conclusion between the USSR and Japan of a treaty to proclaim and consolidate the development of their relations along the road of goodneighborliness and all-round and mutually beneficial cooperation would meet the interests of the Soviet and Japanese peoples and be a major step for the benefit of international peace and security.

GUYANESE CITES WFTU GROWTH DESPITE IMPERIALIST ATTACKS

LD231234Y Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Georgetown, February 23 TASS--The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) since its inception has been actively fighting for the rights of the workers of the world, Cheddi Jagan, secretary-general of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana and honorary chairman of one of the biggest trade unions of the country, the Agricultural and General Workers' Union, said in a TASS interview.

The activity of the WFTU has more than once been fiercely attacked by imperialist, colonialist and reactionary forces that tried to split and weaken the organisation, which had earned wide international recognition. Notwithstanding the machinations of reactionary forces, Jagan said, the WFTU continues devotedly to uphold the interests of the working people throughout the world.

Today, the World Federation of Trade Unions has become a mighty organising force, cementing the working-class movement of all countries in the struggle for the rights of the workers, for the further consolidation of the international trade union movement, Jagan said in conclusion.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET IN HAVANA

LD241146Y Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Havana, February 24, TASS--A consultative meeting of leaders of parliamentary groups of the socialist countries was held in Havana from February 21 to February 23. Taking part in the meeting were representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, KDPR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, as well as observers from Vietnam and Laos.

The participants in the conference discussed the results of the 64th conference of the Interparliamentary Union that was held in Sofia, considered the matters connected with the spring meetings of the bodies of the Interparliamentary Union to be held in Lisbon and the third interparliamentary conference on European security and cooperation to be held in Vienna in May.

As a result of the fruitful exchange of opinions, the Havana meeting arrived at the unanimous conclusion that participation of parliamentary groups of socialist countries in the activities of the Interparliamentary Union can effectively promote the cause of world peace, consolidation of international detente, peaceful coexistence, ending of the arms race, disarmament, the struggle of peace forces against production of the neutron bomb and its deployment in Europe, the cause of independence of nations, democratisation of international relations and social progress. The next consultative meeting of the leaders of parliamentary groups of the socialist countries is planned to be held in Bucharest.

During the Havana meeting, its participants were received by the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba Fidel Castro.

MONUMENT TO SOVIET SOLDIERS DEDICATED IN HAVANA

For Havana reportage on the 23 February dedication of an "internationalist Soviet soldier mausoleum" near Havana, including speeches on the occasion by Soviet Ambassador Tolubeyev and Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, see the Cuba section of the 24 February Latin America DAILY REPORT.

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 20 FEB

LD210732

[Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 20 February reports that spring sowing has begun in the Dagestanskaya ASSR. This year the Dagestan farmers have decided to sell no less than 130,000 tons of vegetables for the state. The overhaul of sowing and soil-cultivation equipment has been completed in Kirghizia. Our correspondent was told at the republican Ministry of Agriculture that more than 28,000 tractors would be taking part in fieldwork. Belorussian agricultural mechanizers will get 15,500 tractors and more than 5,000 grain and grain-grass sowers from Selkhoztekhnika bases this year.

At 0830 GMT the radio reports that in Altayskiy Kray 5 million hectares are to sown to grain crops this year, of which almost 4 million hectares will be occupied by spring wheat. About 200,000 hectares will be occupied by millet and buckwheat.

At 2230 GMT the radio reports that a total of 195,000 tractors have so far been overhauled by mechanizers of Kazakhstan, a total of 15,000 more than by the same time last year. The overhauling of tractors, sowing machines, soil cultivating machines in Dzhambulskaya Oblast is being completed. The preparation of technology for the spring in the largest agricultural oblast of Kazakhstan, the Kustanay, is successfully in progress. As our correspondent was told in the republican Ministry of Agriculture, this spring a total of nearly 30 million hectares of plowed land is to be sown to spring crops.

CSA REPORTS PROMPT OVERHAUL OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

LD231418Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The USSR CSA has reported that in the Ukraine, in Belorussia, Moldavia, Kirgizia and Lithuania, the preparation of equipment for the spring has been completed. These preparations have also been completed in oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics of northern Caucasus, the Volga region, and the central Non-chernozem strip. The overhauling of agricultural machines throughout the country is proceeding considerably better than in the past. For example, in comparison with last year, the preparation of all equipment for field work is proceeding 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Mechanizers are carrying out preparations of harvesting machines at an increased tempo. Half of all grain combine-harvesters are already overhauled, repaired, and parked on machine yards. The successful progress of overhauling work, we were told by the all-union association of Selkhoztekhnika, is explained primarily through the extensive competition which has unfolded and started on the initiative of agricultural mechanisers of Belorussia, Stavropolya, Ivanovo, Vladimir, Belgorod and Odessa oblasts.

The initiators themselves long ago completed the preparation of sowing machinery and are now completing the overhauling of combine-harvesters and threshing machines. Precise work to prepare equipment for field work is helped also by measures undertaken by operations staffs of oblasts, republics, and the all-union staff. The supply of spares has improved. In this a great role has been played by the propaganda concerning the leading practical experience of the Minsk, Volgograd tractor works and the Vilnius fuel apparatus works. There are, however, some shortcomings. For example, in Kazakhstan and the Russian federation, tractors of the K-700 and P-150 type are being slowly overhauled. The supply of spare parts for these powerful machines is delayed at the Yaroslavl motor works. In Turkmenia, half of the sowing machines and many plowing machines are not ready for fieldwork, although the spring field work is already starting.

EXPERIMENTS CONTINUE ABOARD SALYUT-6-SOYUZ-27 COMPLEX

LD231204Y Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control center.

The Soviet manned research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 is continuing in flight.

The crew had a day of active rest yesterday. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko did physical exercises, checked up the course of the biological experiments being carried out on board the complex and rested.

The crew started their working day today at eight o'clock in the morning. After breakfast and medical checkups, the cosmonauts carried out technical experiments for further mastering the system of orientation and stabilization of the orbital complex in various dynamic modes.

According to the programme of exploration of the Earth's natural resources, the crew carried out in the course of the day visual observations and photography of some areas of the Earth's surface and the world ocean.

According to the reports of the crew and data of telemetric information, the onboard systems of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 complex are functioning normally.

Romanenko and Grechko are in good health and feel well.

Telescope Experiment

LD232054Y Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Flight control centre, February 23, TASS--"We have liquid helium"--this report, an unusual one for a space radioline, came on the 73rd day of the space mission aboard the manned orbital station Salyut-6. It meant that Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko started a new series of experiments in outer space. It began with the testing of a cryogenic system, a unique device designed for cooling miniature crystals which act as receivers of radiation in the onboard telescope. Instruments at the telescope control panel showed a record temperature of minus 269 degress for this type of instruments, only 4.2 degrees above absolute zero.

Telescopes on earth, no matter how high in mountains they are placed, give a distorted picture. Thus, in studying the atmosphere of Venus, astronomers see the blue veil of the morning start through an atmosphere which is full of noise in all electromagnetic wavebands. Therefore the first ever factory of liquid helium was made to work in orbit for two little crystals which constitute the "heart" of the space telescope. When cooled to a temperature close to absolute zero, the crystals acquired ideal electromagnetic purity, that is they produce minimum noise even at atomic level.

Space signals are received by the external reflector of the telescope (its mirror is 1.5 metres in diameter) and are focused on the crystals which "memorize" information in a form understandable to scientists.

Installed on the telescope is an optical sight with 12-times magnification to make it easier for the cosmonauts to sight the instrument with great precision on a required area of the universe. This system was also checked successfully by Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko. They trained the telescope on Sirius and Jupiter and reported to Earth that the control system securely keeps the object of observation at the crosshairs of the sight. The scientists are planning to study the most interesting sources which radiate in the sub-millimetre wavebands; they are to begin with the center of the galaxy, explore the Orion Nebula and then clouds of interstellar hydrogen.

It is not for the first time that telescopes are taken to outer space. Cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz and Salyut ships held more than one reportage from outer space with the help of astrophysical instruments. The telescope at this station opens a new page in astrophysical investigations in orbit; it offers an opportunity of making complex chemical analyses of outer space.

This morning the cosmonauts reported the result of their first period of work with the telescope. They studied accumulations of water vapor molecules in the atmosphere, that is, areas of high moisture content which cause sharp changes of weather on our planet.

Trajectory Corrected

LD2411-0Y Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight-control center:

A correction of the trajectory of the flight of the Soviet orbital complex has been carried out on Thursday, in accordance with the flight programme. To carry through the planned maneauver the cosmonauts have oriented the complex and then switched on the engine of the Salyut-6 station. The correction having been made, the manned Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 complex continues the flight in an orbit with the following parameters: The maximum distance from the surface of the earth--364 kilometers, the minimum--335 kilometers, the period of revolution--91.4 minutes, the inclination--51.6 degrees.

A medical check-up is on the programme of the cosmonauts' working day. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko carried out a cycle of examinations of the cardiovascular system with the use of the vacuum suit Chibis and the registering multifunctional equipment Poly-Non-2M.

In the course of the day the crew of the orbital complex fulfilled regular operations in the biological experiment in the study of the dynamics of the growth of microorganisms in space flight conditions.

Romanenko and Grechko feel well.

USTINOV DELIVERS REPORT AT KREMLIN ARMED FORCES DAY MEETING

LD221830Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1355 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Report by Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, entitled "60 Years on Guard Over the Conquests of Great October" and delivered at the Kremlin meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed forces--live]

[Text] Dear comrades! Esteemed foreign guests! Representatives of our heroic working class, the glorious kolkhoz peasantry, people's intelligentsia, valiant armed forces, veterans of the war and our comrades in battle, representatives of the armies of the fraternal socialist countries, are gathered in this hall today to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

We have listened with deep emotion to Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and marshal of the Soviet Union. The greetings message from the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers to the Soviet Army and Navy, which highly evaluates the historic services and military labor of Soviet soldiers, evokes in all of us feelings of great joy and pride.

At the same time, this evaluation commits us to achieve new successes in battle and political training to improve the combat readiness of the army and navy, and to stand guard even more vigilantly over the sacred borders of our homeland. [applause]

Permit me to heartily thank the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers and you personally, dear Leonid Ilich, for the immense daily concern for strenthening the state's defense capability, for increasing the combat might of the armed forces and for the inspiring, kind wishes for the personnel of the Soviet Army and Navy. [applause]

Soviet soldiers assure our own dear party and government and all the people that they will, as always, fulfill their duty to defend the socialist motherland worthily and honorably. [applause]

Comrades: All of our country's life is currently bathed in the light of the recent jubilee October celebrations. They were a clear demonstration of the outstanding achievements of the Soviet people, who, under the leadership of the Communist Party, have built a developed socialist society. The new USSR Constitution was a real manifesto of mature socialism, it reflects the results of the revolutionary transforming activity of the party and people over 60 years and gives bright prospects for communist building.

The nationwide discussion and the adoption of the constitution and the preparations for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution brought forth a new and powerful upsurge of political and labor activity of Soviet people. This upsurge is continuing to grow and spread, bringing remarkable examples of shock labor and patrictic initiatives.

The practical work of our country's working people embodies the inexorable will of the people to fulfill the far-reaching program drawn up by the 25th party congress for social and economic development and to increase still further the might and prestige of the homeland and to multiply its glory. [applause]

The celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is essentially a continuation of the October Revolution festivities, for the history of our army and navy is inseparable from the victory of October and the history of the world's first country of socialism. For 60 years the armed forces of the Soviet state have been vigilantly guarding the revolutionary gains of the people, wholeheartedly and faithfully serving the great cause of the Leninist party and the cause of communism.

Today's festive event is a truly popular one. It is being marked in every corner of our boundless fatherland; and our friends abroad are marking it with us. On this solemn day our country honors all those who created the Soviet Army and Navy, who carried their military banners in a worthy fashion through unparalleled trials, who by their labor forged victory and strengthened the country's defense capacity and who today maintain the might and combat readiness of the armed forces. [applause]

On this day we honor the radiant memory of all those who gave their lives in the struggle for the freedom and independence of our homeland. Their immortal feats will always remain a clear example of courage, steadfastness, heroism and inexorable will for victory.

Comrades: The Great October Socialist Revolution radically altered the course of development of mankind. It marked the start of a new epoch--the epoch of the revolutionary renewal of the world. Its victory signified the birth of the world's first socialist state. The founders of scientific communism--Marx, Engels and Lenin--foresaw that the conquest of power by the working class would arouse fierce opposition from the overthrown exploiting classes and that the international bourgeoisie would strive to stifle the victorious revolution.

Therefore, as it approached the October uprising, our party prepared the revolutionary armed forces in advance not only for the seizure of power by the proletariat but also for the subsequent defense of its gains. On the basis of the experience of the detachments of armed workers of 1905 the party created the Red Guard, which became the armed vanguard of the proletarian revolution. At the same time, by carrying out political and agitation work among the old army and navy, the party was able to bring over to its side the broad masses of the soldiers and sailors.

The working class, the Red Guards, the revolutionary soldiers and sailors played a tremendous role in the October days and in the first months after the establishment of Soviet power. However, these forces were insufficient to defend the young state of workers and peasants, which had not yet gathered its strength and against which had risen the whole internal and external counterrevolution.

What was needed was a new, capable, disciplined regular army. Without an armed defense for the socialist republic, Vladimir Ilich Lenin said, we could not exist. And when, in February 1918, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government appealed to the people to rise up in defense of the socialist homeland, thousands upon thousands of workers and peasants entered the ranks of the Red Army. Thus were its foundations laid as an army of the people, a socialist army.

Our army was born and gained strength in unbelievably difficult circumstances. The republic of the soviets was surrounded by a hostile capitalist encirclement. Industry and transport had virtually come to a standstill. Agriculture went into decline. The flame of civil war was burning fiercely over vast areas of the state. Our land was attacked by military interventionists from various directions. A deadly threat hung over the country. The very existence of Soviet rule was in question.

When we recall those hard times, we think with enthusiasm of the people who in most severe battles wrote the first lines of the heroic biography of our army. They were the fearless soldiers of the revolution, warriors of epic courage and valor. In songs, sayings and legends the people have sung praises of the heroic deeds of the Red warriors. The heroes of Marva and Pskov, Petrograd and Tsaritsyn, Kakhovka and Perekop, Volochayevka and Spassk still provide examples of unbending revolutionary spirit, courage and loyalty to duty. [applause]

Participants in the Civil War are present in this hall. They remember the first combat steps of the newly created Red Army regiments and divisions. These steps were not easy: They were truly heroic. The Red Army lacked experience of conducting warfare. It did not have trained commanding cadres and it was short of arms, munitions, provisions and uniforms. But it had to face White Guard armies and armed forces of the most powerful capitalist states. They were well-trained, fully provisioned troops headed by staff officers and generals. But despite everything our army gained the victory. [applause]

It not only won but came out of the fiery conflict strengthened and tempered; and this victory was achieved thanks to the fact that the Red Army leaned on the selfless support of millions of working people. Its soldiers were inspired in their feat by the bright ideals of October, and it was led by the tested leader [Vozhd] of the revolution, by the Communist Party headed by Vladimir Ilich Lenin. [applause]

A remarkable pleiad of talented generals and political workers grew up in those awesome years under the leadership of the party, among them Budennyy, Voroshilov, Kirov, Kuybyshev, Tukhachevskiy, Frunze and many other famous commanders and commissars. [applause] The forms of organization of a new type of army were consolidated in the fire of the Civil War. The foundations of Soviet military science and the art of war were formed, and the battle traditions of our armed forces were born.

We were not alone during the years of harsh trials; much help was given to the republic of the soviets and its army by our class brothers abroad. Many thousands of them fought in the ranks of the Red Army. By resolute actions under the slogan: Hands of Russia, the international working class and the working people of the capitalist countries, containing the forces of counterrevolution, reduced the pressure of the imperialist interventionists.

The first battle against world imperialism was won. The Soviet people gained the opportunity to begin solving a task of world historical importance, the building of a new society, a society of the working people and for the working people. The creative genius of the popular masses and the inexhaustible potential of liberated labor developed fully in the struggle to carry out this task.

Through the will and efforts of the people, guided by the Communist Party, the country rose from the ruins. The material and technical basis for a new social system was laid down. Its sociopolitical basis was strengthened. Shatura and Volkhovstroy, Dneproges and the Magnitka, the Stalingrad and Kharkov tractor plants, Uralmash, Turksib, Komsomolsk-Na-Amur and many other construction sites of the first 5-year plan periods became glorious milestones of socialist industrialization. Agriculture was transformed onto a socialist basis. Millions of peoples gained access to knowledge, science and culture. In the USSR, united in cohesion by Leninist ideas, all nationalities and ethnic groups of the country grew stronger and flourished, as did their unbreakable friendship. [applause]

In an historically short time our motherland turned into a powerful, socialist state. [applause] The successes of the Soviet state gave no peace to those who tried to suffocate the power of the Soviets at birth. New aggressive intrigues came to fruition in the camp of the imperialists against the first land of socialism in the world, and plans to eliminate it were nurtured.

In these conditions the party, which carried out a consistently firm peace-loving foreign policy, constantly concerned itself with the defense of the state.

Together with the whole country, the Red Army was developed and grew stronger. On the basis of achievements in the building of socialism, it was fundamentally reorganized and technically reequipped. The level of general education and the military and political training of the personnel rose rapidly. The teaching of the military cadres was improved. Soviet military science and military art was further developed. All this made it possible to significantly raise the military might of the armed forces.

The war against the fascist aggressors became a truly patriotic war. Under the party slogan of everything for the front, everything for victory, the country became a united, powerful, fighting camp. In order to mobilize all forces to repel and rout the enemy, the State Defense Committee was set up, with Comrade Stalin at its head. [applause of about 10 seconds]

For almost 1,500 days and nights the Soviet people fought for victory. In its scale, ferocity and intensity the struggle was unprecedented in history. It was a struggle for the freedom and independence of the homeland and for the future of mankind and its salvation from the horrors of fascism. The outcome of the struggle was decided both on the battlefield and in plants and factories, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, in mines and on transport routes.

A decisive role in gaining victory was played by the fast-growing economic potential of the country in supplying the front with all necessities, the combat power of Soviet Armed Forces, the moral and political cohesion of the Soviet people, their selfless loyalty to the ideals of communism and unquenchable love for their socialist motherland, and massive military and labor heroism. The Soviet people, Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, have honorably withstood the severe tests of war. The enemy was routed and overthrown. Our remarkable people, heroic people, titanic people, raised high the Leninist banner wreathed with glory, the banner of Great October and carried it victoriously through the fire of the war years. [applause]

Today, in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, our country pays a tribute of deep respect to those who bore the brunt of the war. The motherland will never forget the unprecedented heroic acts of Soviet warriors, partisans and underground agents; the heroic toil of the working class, kolkhoz members and people's intelligentsia; all whom, on the front or in the hinterland, fought for victory. Millions of sons and daughters of our fatherland went into battle, defying death--and they won. To them is due the greatest gratitude of the peoples who were delivered from fascist servitude. [applause]

Our victory, as Leonid Ilich writes in his memoirs Malaya Zemlya, demonstrated the greatness of our socialist motherland, showed the full force of communist ideas and provided astounding examples of selflessness and heroism. [applause]

The glory of our armed forces, achieved at a high price in battles with the enemy, will never fade. It was the armed forces who were the first to stop the most powerful army in the capitalist world, that of fascist Germany, and bar the path to the further spread of aggression. It was they who destroyed the main forces of the Hitlerite hordes, struck a crushing blow against the Japanese militarists and played a decisive role in the achievement of victory in World War II. It was they who liberated many peoples of Europe and Asia from foreign enslavement, worthily fulfilling their international mission. [applause]

The Great Patriotic War confirmed again that heroic deeds in the name of the motherland constitute the norm for conduct of Soviet troops in battle. For courage and valor at the fronts over 11,000 people were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Millions of troops have been decorated with orders and medals. Nearly 11,000 military orders have decorated the banners of detachments, units and ships. The names of Aleksandr Matrosov and Nikolay Gastello, Yuriy Smirnov and Aleksey Maresyev, Aleksandr Pokryshkin and Ivan Kozhedub, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya and Mariya Milyukaysa and many other glorious sons and daughters of our people have become symbols of the greatness of spirit, military skill and inflexible will for fictory. [applause] These qualities are typical of the armed defender of the socialist fatherland, educated by the party and the whole way of our soviet life. [applause]

Many major strategic operations carried out by the Soviet Army and Navy have entered war history as shining examples of military art. With their planning and implementation are linked the names of such talented divisional commanders and battle commanders as Zhukov, Vasilyevskiy, Bagramyan, Vatutain, Govorov, Golovko, Mironenko, Koniev, Kuznetsov, Malinovskiy, Meretskov, Moskalenko, Oktyabrskiy, Petrov, Rokossovskiy, Tolpukhin, Chernyakovskiy, Chukov and many others. [applause]

The political workers were the ideological fighters and inspirers of Soviet soldiers in the war years. They armed the fighters ideologically, strengthened within them the great feelings of love to their motherland, instilled faith in victory and inspired them to great deeds; and their chief weapon was the impassioned party message and their own example in battle. According to a decision of the party Central Committee, members of the Central Committee, secretaries of party obkoms and other prominent party leaders who possessed great experience in organizational and mass political work, were dispatched to do leading political work among the troops. Among them was Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. [applause]

From the first days of the war until total victory over the fascist invaders, Leonid Ilich was on active service. In battles for the Caucasus, battles on the legendary Malya Zemlya, the expulsion of the Hitlerite occupiers from the Crimea and the Ukraine, the liberation of Poland, Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, such was the battle course of the army in whose ranks fought Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. [applause]

The motherland has given a high appraisal to his services in battle and labor, twice awarding him the title Hero of the Soviet Union, the title of Hero of Socialist Labor and bestowing many orders and medals upon him. [applause] It is with immense joy and enthusiasm that the men of the army and navy received the decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the award of the Order of Victory to Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Defense Council. [applause]

We are boundlessly proud that this lofty award has been given to an outstanding figure of the Communist Party and Soviet state and of the international communist and workers movement--a true Marxist-Leninist, whose name is connected with the far-reaching successes of the Soviet people in communist building and in the struggle for peace and international security. The award of the Order of Victory to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy is profoundly significant, for the defense capability of our country and the might of the Soviet Armed Forces are inseparable from the name of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. [applause]

In his tireless activity in guiding the party and state, Leonid Ilich gives daily attention to questions of military building and makes a tremendous contribution toward the strengthening of the defense capability of the country and the military might of the army and navy. Leonid Ilich enjoys exclusively lofty love and respect in the army and navy. [applause]

Allow me, dear Leonid Ilich, on behalf of all the troops of the Soviet Army and the Soviet Navy, to congratulate you warmly and cordially on your merited award and to wish you good health, long years of life and new remarkable achievements for the good of our motherland. [applause]

In our country a special attitude has arisen toward participants in the war, and on this solemn day today, addressing those who are continuing to serve in the ranks of the army and navy and those who work in different sections of communist building, or are at well-deserved leisure, the party and the people say: You fulfilled your duty worthily and gained profound, nationwide respect. Good health and happiness to you, our dear front-line fighters. [applause]

A great contribution toward the common victory over the enemy was made by the peoples, armies and states of the anti-Hitler coalition allied to us and the partisans and members of the resistance movements in the occupied lands of Europe: Units of the armies of Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, patriots of Romania, Bulgaria and Albania waged a courageous struggle with the Soviet Army against the fascist invaders, and troops of fraternal Mongolia took an active part in the defeat of the Japanese Kwantung Army.

Today, on the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, we send them our combatants' greetings. We believe that the blood shed in our common struggle, the losses and hardships which we shared in the war years and the joy of victory over fascism which we all felt are not and never will be forgotten. [applause]

Comrades, the whole development of our armed forces and all their outstanding victories are unbreakably linked with the wise leadership of the Communist Party. During the years of the Great Patriotic War, it became truly a fighting party, and its Central Committee became its battle headquarters which implemented the highest political and strategic leadership over the country and its armed forces. The active army made up over half its complement. By the end of the war every fourth Soviet soldier was a member or a candidate member of the party. Communists showed an example of fearlessness and heroism. They were the first to rise to the attack and carried to the masses the deepest conviction in the justice of our cause. The people were the creators of victory and the party its soul. A total of 3 million communists died a brave death at the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, and during this time 5 million Soviet patriots complemented the ranks of the party.

Our victory in the Great Patriotic War had a world-embracing historic significance. It exerted a tremendous influence on the whole of the postwar development of mankind and on the life of millions of people in all parts of the world. Victory even further strengthened the authority and the international positions of the USSR and opened up new favorable opportunities for the growth of forces of peace, democracy and socialism.

It convincingly confirmed the foresight of Vladimir Ilich Lenin that the republic of the soviets will endure all attacks by hostile forces and will stand firmly as a beacon of international socialism and as an example to all the working masses.

At the same time, our victory is a stern warning to imerialist reaction, a harsh history lesson for all who attempt to revise the results of the last war and for all who like playing with fire. [applause]

Comrades: Our homeland has entered the seventh decade of the Great October Revolution. Filled with great creative strength and energy, the Soviet people look for the future with confidence. In close cohesion around their tried and tested vanguard--the party of Lenin--they march confidently toward their cherished aim of communism. To achieve this great aim we need peace.

Peace to the people was Lenin's appeal which rang out at the very dawn of Soviet rule. Since those October days in 1917 our country has been consistently and tirelessly struggling for just peace on earth and the security of the peoples. It has been carrying our the principled, honest and just policy which is characteristic of a socialist state. The successes of the Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state which have been achieved over the past years are of a truly historic significance.

Thanks to the active peace offensive by the USSR, other socialist countries and all progressive forces of the world, the supporters of the cold war have been compelled to retreat. Relaxation of international tension has become a reality of the present time. In relations between states with different social systems, the principle of peaceful coexistence is taking deeper and deeper root, and the danger of nuclear war has been made to recede. The main thing on which the Soviet Union and the fraternal countries of socialism are now concentrating their efforts is to completely eliminate the threat of nuclear war, to stabilize the positive changes in international relations, to deepen and consolidate detente making the process of its development irreversible and to stop the arms race. Our country has recently taken new steps on the path toward peacefully solving these problems. A number of important, constructive proposals have been put forward.

The Soviet Union has firmly stated its readiness to reach agreement on the simultaneous cessation by all states of the production of nuclear weapons and the reduction of the stockpiles of such weapons until their complete elimination. We are ready to stop all tests of nuclear weapons, to declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and to refrain on a mutual basis from the production of neutron weapons. The Soviet Union is doing everything necessary to insure progress in the talks being conducted on a whole number of problems of curbing the arms race. We attach particular importance to the successful completion of talks and conclusion of a treaty between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic weapons as well as a treaty on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

However, forces of reaction and aggression exist and are active in the capitalist world, opposing detente and disarmament. They are trying to revive the atmosphere of distrust and brinkmanship in interstate relations, are striving for the expansion of aggressive military blocs and the creation of new ones and are striving for military superiority over the countries of socialism. These forces are maintaining the hotbeds of tension, provoking military conflicts and whipping up the increasingly dangerous arms race. In the past 10 years alone the countries which make up the aggressive NATO bloc have spent $1.3 trillion dollars on military preparations, half of these colossal funds in the past 4 years.

Last year alone the military expenditure of the NATO countries amounted to $165 billion. Even higher allocations are planned for the following year.

In order to justify the arms race, imperialist reaction attempts to distort the purpose of the peace initiatives of the USSR and the other socialist countries and to misinterpret the essence of our purely defensive measures. It slanders socialism and energetically spreads the lie of the so-called Soviet military threat. However, in reality there has never been and is not now any military threat from the USSR.

The Chinese leadership is acting in concert with world reaction. It is striving in every way to kindle enmity and hatred among peoples, is conducting malicious propaganda hostile to the USSR, is stubbornly opposing all the peace initiatives of the socialist countries and is calling for the setting up of a united anti-Soviet front.

It is quite clear that the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community cannot ignore military preparations and intrigues by aggressive forces wherever they are conducted. Our peoples have paid a very high price for peace, and for us there is no task more important than providing security for the homeland and the achievements of socialism. [applause]

The Soviet people have never resorted to saber rattling and do not intend to do so; this is alien to our policy and contrary to our convictions and principles. The Communist Party and the Soviet state struggle tirelessly for peace founded on the firm basis of international security and cooperation.

At the same time, let no one mistake our love of peace for weakness, and let no one try to frighten us with new types of lethal weapons, cruise missiles, neutron bombs or anything of that kind. It is apposite to recall that to intimidate us is a senseless and hopeless cause. The economy, science and technology of our country are capable of insuring the production of any weapons which our enemies might try to rely on.

At the same time, having at its disposal great potential for the development of modern military equipment, the Soviet Union has repeatedly stated that it does not wish to pursue a path of competition in the sphere of military technology. This is an extremely dangerous path. Our policy does not pursue a course toward superiority in armaments but a course toward their curtailment, toward reducing military confrontations. [applause]

The Soviet state has been and remains in favor of peace. However, should a threat arise, should the situation demand it, the armed forces will honorably discharge their duty in the defense of the peaceful work of the Soviet people and the gains of socialism. [applause]

Comrades: In strengthening the defense of the country, the Communist Party is unswervingly guided by Lenin's teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland. The fundamental ideas of this teaching are profoundly reflected and creatively developed in the CPSU program, in the decisions of party congresses, in the resolutions of the plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and in the Soviet Constitution.

From the great and complex number of cardinal problems in world politics and international relations, our party has underlined as the main issue of the present time the question of war and peace. On its solution depend the lives of hundreds of millions of people, the future of all peoples. The party has shown a way to the preservation and consolidation of peace, has defined the sociopolitical forces capable of averting war and has substantiated the need for high political vigilance against the intrigues of aggressive forces.

The CPSU is unswervingly guided by the Leninist tenet that the revolution can secure its victory only if it is able to defend itself. And the party has given concrete expression to this tenet in connection with the present situation of antagonism between two social systems--socialism and capitalism. It has demonstrated the objective necessity and vital importance of close military cooperation among fraternal countries in the interests of their collective defense.

The party strictly follows Lenin's teaching about the dialectic unity of economic, scientific and technical, moral-political and military potential as the basic components of the defense might of the state. And in present conditions of organic combination, this unity has become even more close and multifaceted. On the basis of the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution together with the advantages of developed socialism, the party has developed economic strategies and a program of social transformations in the interests of building communism. Their implementation also reliably promotes the strengthening of the country's defense capability.

The whole history of our state and its armed forces provides convincing affirmation of the correctness of the Leninist conclusion on the decisive role of the Communist Party in military building. The constant increase in the role of party guidance of the armed forces is completely natural. In our country there is not a single sphere of military building in which the mobilizing directing activity of the CPSU, its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo led by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev is not displayed. [applause]

The provisions and conclusions contained in the reports, speeches and articles by Leonid Ilich are of the greatest importance for correct theoretical and practical solution of issues of armed forces building. The defense of the socialist fatherland is defined in the USSR Constitution as a very important function of our state, as a matter for all the people, and the Soviet state and our people evince tireless concern for all-round strengthening of the country's defense capability and insuring its security.

By their selfless labor in all sectors of building communism, the Soviet people are strengthening and developing the economic and hence defense, capability of the country, creating the sociopolitical and spiritual preconditions for the constant increase in the might of the armed forces.

Every Soviet family, every school, every labor collective is making its contribution toward guaranteeing the country's security and toward training and educating a worthy reinforcement for the armed forces. Permit me, on behalf of the armed forces, to express our profound thanks to them for this. [applause]

We thank the Leninist Komsomol, workers of popular education, and of social and sports organizations for their great and good military-patriotic work with young people. [applause]

I would like to say some warm words about DOSAAF, which is carrying out very necessary and useful mass defense work. At the moment every third person who is called up receives professional training, necessary both for the armed forces and the national economy, in this society. The USSR DOSAAF is our reliable reserve and helper. [applause]

The country's everyday reality is full of bright testimony to the fact that every Soviet person views the defense of the socialist fatherland as his own vital and dear cause, as his own prime duty. This comprises a most important source of the might of the armed forces of our state of the entire people. [applause]

The Soviet people are filled with deep satisfaction and justified pride in the increased might of their homeland. Leonid Ilich has said: Never before has our country been endowed with such immense economic and scientific and technical potential; never before has its defense capability been so solid and so reliable. [applause]

All progressive mankind sees in the economic and defense might of the Soviet state a reliable support in the struggle for the security of the peoples against the aggressive ambitions of the reactionary imperialist forces. The necessary defense capability of the USSR consolidates the positions of the world socialist system; it creates favorable conditions for the building of socialism and communism.

Comrades: Particular responsibility for the country's defense is placed on the armed forces. It is their duty to the peoples, the Constitution declares, to reliably defend the socialist homeland. And they are faithful to this duty. By their selfless service and devotion to the homeland and to the cause of the party they have earned the profound love and gratitude of the Soviet people. [applause]

Through all the six decades, the main result of the path traversed by our armed forces stands out clearly. It consists first and foremost of the fact that the whole course of social development and history itself have convincingly confirmed the correctness of the Leninist tenets on the tremendous role of the armed forces in defense of the socialist fatherland. This result is expressed further in the fact that the Soviet Armed Forces, indissolubly linked with the people and guided by the party, have always been and remain true guards of the gains of October. It consists also of the fact that the policy of the Communist Party in the field of military building has brilliantly passed the test of time. [applause]

In directing military building, the party has always proceeded and proceeds from the fact that it is an inalienable part of general state building. And it is completely natural that the characteristic features inherent in the Soviet Armed Forces should receive further development at the stage of mature socialism, and be enriched with new content.

Our armed forces are the armed forces of a state of the entire people. Its entire countenance reflects the communist essence of a society of developed socialism and the nobility of its aims. They represent a powerful weapon in the defense of the interests of the whole people, the insurance of the security of the socialist fatherland.

Soviet troops, in close cohesion to the Leninist Communist Party and the Soviet Government, are boundlessly devoted to the cause of communism. They are characterized by lofty political consciousness and responsibility for the fate of their motherland. Burning patriotism, unsurpassed moral and military qualities, today's generation of Soviet troops, like their fathers and grandfathers, are ready to come to the defense of the Soviet fatherland at any time. [applause]

Our armed forces are the beloved creation of the multinational Soviet people, the new social and historic community of peoples. Service is carried out in a united rank by representatives of all classes and social groups, all nationalities and ethnic groups of our great motherland, tightly welded into an unbreakable union. Every army and navy collective--be it of a subunit, section, ship or the armed forces as a whole--is a fraternal combat family in which the soldiers are educated in a spirit of fraternity, solidarity, respect and mutual aid.

Like a mighty tree which sinks its roots deep into the earth feeding it, so the Soviet Armed Forces draw their might from the people. As we advance toward communism, the vital bonds linking the army with the people become ever richer, more perfect and stronger. As full and equal citizens of their great country, the Soviet soldiers are actively participating in the life of the people and their political, social and economic affairs.

The Soviet Armed Forces constitute not only a school for combat skills but also a good school for ideological and physical tempering, discipline and efficient organization.

Military service tempers a young and often still unformed character, gives young people technical and professional knowledge, teaches them collectivism, courage, and stamina. Young people who have obtained army and navy tempering also show excellent qualities in peaceful labor. The great labor glory of former soldiers goes before them within the vast confines of the motherland. At numerous construction sites and workshops of factories, in agriculture or the auditoriums of universities--everywhere they show an example of high citizenship, discipline and efficient organization.

Our armed forces are a living embodiment of socialist internationalism. Their battle might is reliably serving the interests of socialism and communism, the interests of social progress and peace.

Today the Soviet Armed Forces are discharging their duty in defending the socialist gains shoulder to shoulder with the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries. In close cooperation their combat skills are being improved; the unbreakable friendship among brothers in arms, soldiers and internationalists is strengthening and developing; glorious traditions born in battles against the common foe are being multiplied.

Taking into account the continuing growth in military preparations by the aggressive NATO bloc, the Soviet people and men of the army and navy will do everything to strengthen the fraternal defensive alliance and maintain at the required level the battle readiness of the joint armed forces. [applause]

Permit me to use this opportunity to convey to the personnel of the fraternal armies warmest battle greetings from the Soviet Army and Navy and wishes for great successes in training and the future strengthening of battle cooperation. [applause]

Our armed forces are a reliable guard over the peaceful labors of the Soviet people, the bulwark of universal peace: That is precisely what our army was called by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in the CPSU Central Committee report to the 25th party congress. These words reveal one of the most important special features of the socialist armies. Throughout history the armies of the exploiting states have behaved and still behave as an instrument of oppression and aggression. Only in conditions of socialism has the army, for the first time in history, become the defender of the people and a powerful means of containing aggressive forces and preserving peace on earth.

This must be said because bourgeois propaganda, striving to hide the antipopular essence of the imperialist armies, is attempting to distort the historic mission of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. The press, radio, movies and television are disseminating unsubstantiated fabrications to the effect that our army is allegedly a tool of communist expansion. All this is malicious slander. The Soviet Armed Forces have never been used for aggressive aims. All the wars the Soviet people and their armed forces have been forced to wage were just; we have bared our swords, and this is known to all our ill-wishers, solely against those who encroached on the Soviet homeland and its freedom and on the people's socialist gains. At the same time, imperialism--by virtue of its aggressive essence--has unleashed numerous wars and military conflicts, including those in recent years. Its armies act as an instrument of the enslavement of peoples, the suppression of freedom and democracy. Such is the truth of history. Such is the indisputable truth which is obvious to all honest people in the world.

Comrades, thanks to the constant concern of the party and the people, our armed forces have considerably exceeded the level they had reached by the end of the Great Patriotic War in terms of technical equipment, organizational structure and command and supply systems. All their present building is taking place on the basis of the latest achievements of scientific and technical progress. The consolidation and improvement of the army and navy is a complex, all-embracing, creative process in which stagnation has not and cannot have any place. What was new yesterday becomes the past today. Herein lies the essence of the dialectics of military art.

The principal and determining indicator of the might of the armed forces consists in their constant combat readiness, which guarantees an immediate rebuff to any aggressor. Combat readiness is the focal point on which are concentrated the tremendous efforts and material expenditures of the people to equip the army. Equally important are the consciousness, training and discipline of all military personnel, the skill of the combat staff in leading the troops, and many other things.

Combat readiness is the culmination of the military skill of personnel in peacetime and the key to victory in war. The arms race of the capitalist countries, which grows from year to year, and the intensification of their military preparations aimed against the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, demand that the combat readiness of the army and navy be constantly maintained at the appropriate level. This is the permanent task of Soviet soldiers, and their attitude toward its fulfillment and the constant improvement of their combat skill is one of deep understanding and a deep sense of responsibility.

A decisive influence on the combat readiness of the armed forces is exerted by new weapons. They cause important changes in all spheres of military art, in the organization of troops, and in the forms and methods of military operations; they place enhanced demands on the training of personnel, on their moral and political qualities, and on their psychological steadfastness and physical endurance.

Soviet soldiers now control very complex war machinery [mashina], missile complexes and radio-electronic systems; they pilot nuclear submarines and supersonic aircraft and assimilate other equipment. A great deal of effort is required from all personnel to achieve highly coordinated actions and to gain complete mastery of modern weapons.

Man has been and remains the decisive force in war but, as the saying goes, soldiers are not born but made; and the higher the quality of training and educational work and the closer to battle conditions are the conditions in which land, sea and air exercises take place, the faster this process will be.

The main role in forming the Soviet soldier and insuring constant combat readiness of the armed forces is played by the officer cadres. They are the backbone of the army and navy. Their profession is responsible and honorable. The motherland has entrusted its dearest possession, our remarkable young people, to them, and they must train them in military matters, educate them and, when necessary, lead them to battle. And Soviet officers justify this trust with honor, fulfilling their soldier's duty with a high degree of responsibility. [applause]

We are quite properly proud of the illustrious veterans of the armed forces. They devote all their knowledge to improving the combat ability of the army and navy, to bringing up worthy successors. Officers born after the victory are now coming into the armed forces. They are taking over the priceless baton of the combat experience, knowledge and skill of their elder comrades and are striving to make creative use of it in training troops.

Young officers, with their characteristic intense energy, thirst for knowledge and aspiration toward everything new and important, constitute the future of our armed forces. The party and its Central Committee pay exceptionally great attention to their training.

It is hard to overestimate the importance of party political work in strengthening and constantly raising the combat readiness of the army and navy. This is a weapon in itself that never grows old. Party political work embraces all spheres of the life and activity of the personnel, and actively influences the awareness and heart of Soviet servicemen, unites them around the CPSU and mobilizes them for the successful solution of the tasks facing them.

Firm, cementing strength of the military collectives is provided by the party organizations and their military aide, the army Komsomol. Communists and Komsomol members provide tremendous strength and reliable support for commanders in solving the tasks of raising the combat readiness of subunits, units and ships and strengthening discipline and organization. They are in the vanguard of study and service. The overwhelming majority are leading workers and servicemen with excellent results in military and political training.

Socialist competition is playing a growing role in the struggle to raise the combat readiness of units and ships and improve the effectiveness and quality of the educational process its form is changing. But the essence remains unchanged, expressed in the words of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev: Work better today than yesterday, tomorrow better than today. Better means stressing quality and effectiveness. Soviet servicemen follow this instruction closely. They have fulfilled their socialist pledges adopted in honor of the jubilee of great October. The servicemen of the armed forces responded with great enthusiasm to the letter of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee, and struggled to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy with new, high indicators in study and service.

The party demands that one should not be flattered by successes. It is a law for Soviet soldiers not to be complacent about what has been achieved. In units and on board ships a concentrated training is being carried out, existing reserves are being persistently sought out and put into use, and shortcomings are being resolutely eliminated.

In solving questions affecting the development of the army and navy we constantly find support in Marxist-Leninist teaching on the provisions and conclusions of military science. This enables us to see the future development of military affairs and to accurately and correctly determine the main ways to improve the army and navy and the concrete tasks facing them. The high level of combat capability and combat readiness of the armed forces has been achieved thanks to the constant care given to them by the Communist Party, the government, and all the Soviet people. Fresh proof of this care and the high evaluation of the military work of Soviet soldiers is revealed in the award to a number of units and formations of orders of the USSR, the award to a group of soldiers of titles of Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of Socialist Labor, the award to many servicemen of orders and medals and the institution of a jubilee medal: 60 ears of the USSR Armed Forces.

Permit me, on behalf of the personnel of the armed forces, to express our deep and sincere gratitude for this care and attention to the party, the government and all Soviet people. [applause]

The men of the army and navy highly regard lofty awards as recognition of their services in strengthening the Soviet state's defense capability. At the same time they know very well that these awards oblige them to work even harder and more efficiently, tirelessly to improve the quality and efficiency of soldierly labor, persistently to improve the combat readiness of units, ships and formations.

Dear comrades: The armed forces have traversed a glorious path over six decades. It has been a path of difficult trials and great victories, a path of their constant improvement and strengthening. Today the Soviet Armed Forces represent a mighty battle monolith. The men of the army and navy are closely rallied around the Communist Party and are boundlessly devoted to the motherland. They will fulfill with honor their duty to the people and to the fatherland. [applause]

On this festive day permit me, on behalf of all Soviet soldiers once again to assure our people, our own Communist Party, its Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally that the Soviet Army and Navy have always been, are and will be the faithful guard over the peaceful labor of the Soviet people. [applause] Vigilantly protecting their motherland and the creative labor of Soviet people, the army and navy will do everything to insure that no intrigues of aggressive forces are able to interfere in the historic movement of our state along the path to communism. [applause]

Glory to our own Communist Party, the inspiration and organizer of all our victories! [applause]

Glory to the great Soviet people, the builders of communism! [applause]

Long live the Soviet Armed Forces, the reliable guard of the security of the motherland of Great October, the bulwark of universal peace! [applause]

SOVIET NAVY CHIEF GORSHKOV SPEAKS ON ARMED FORCES DAY

LD231152Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0545 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Speech by Fleet Adm Sergey Gorshkov, USSR deputy minister of defense, commander in chief of Soviet Naval Forces and hero of the Soviet Union--recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades: Today the Soviet people, their servicemen and our country's friends abroad are solemnly marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. The day of the establishment of the army and the navy, which were established by Lenin's decree in 1918, has become a truly nationwide holiday. Every year since that time the country has paid respect to its servicemen, army and navy veterans and the creators and builders of modern military technology--all those who, by their labor, strengthen the defensive might of the socialist fatherland.

This year the people of our motherland and their servicemen welcome the jubilee of the Soviet Army and Navy in a situation when the entire public and political life of the land of the soviets and of the entire world finds itself under the powerful influence of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

In a short historic time our homeland has achieved immense successes in all fields of the economy, culture and social life. On the basis of the development of a socialist economy, the homeland's defense might has been strengthened. The state's defense might has been created by the heroic labor of the Soviet people, who have spared neither energy nor means to strengthen their security. In industry, even in prewar times, the production of new warplanes, warships, tanks, artillery and infantry weapons, ammunition and various types of technical equipment was mastered. All this equipment was successfully mastered on land and sea.

At the same time splendid command cadres of the army and navy were trained and educated by the efforts of our party and people. Servicemen learned to handle new military equipment skillfully and although history at that time afforded little time to strengthen the security of the USSR, decisive prerequisites were created to repel the new aggression of imperialism. Our army and navy found true strength and capability to defend the country from the fascist invaders.

The strength of our socialist state and the reliability of its defense were subjected to the most severe test during the years of the Great Patriotic War, which was the most difficult of all the wars our homeland has ever endured. The question of the existence of the world's first socialist state, the destiny of world civilization, progress and democracy was determined during that time. This predetermined the unprecedented scale and acuteness of military operations as well as their decisiveness and extremely fierce nature.

In hard defensive battles the Soviet Armed Forces drained the enemy of blood, achieved a fundamental turn in the course of the war and, switching to a resolute offensive, achieved a mighty victory. The defeat of the fascist troops outside Moscow, at the gates of Stalingrad and in the northern Caucasus, outside Kursk, in the Ukraine and outside Leningrad, in Belorussia and the Baltic Region, the liberation of the many peoples of Europe from fascist occupation, the enemy's rout in his own lair--these were the glorious and unforgettable landmarks on the road of the Soviet people and their armed forces to victory.

The navy, too, made a notable contribution toward the rout of the German fascist invaders. The heroism and courage displayed by the navy men in the defense of Leningrad and Sevastopol, Odessa and Tallin, Novorossiysk and the polar regions is engraved for ever in the chronicles of Soviet military glory. Our navy supported the coastal flanks of the ground troops, destroyed the enemy's sea communications, transported troops and equipment at sea and landed operational-tactical infantry. During the war the navy sank about 2,500 enemy ships. The Soviet Army and Navy carried their military banners with honor from the Volga to the Spree, cleansing their motherland of the hated invaders and helping the peoples of Europe to gain freedom and independence and the right to build their lives in their own way.

Our victory in the Great Patriotic War was a severe warning to the aggressive forces of imperialism and a testimony to the fact that on one will succeed in defeating a people who are boundlessly devoted to their fatherland and the ideas of communism, and are educated and led by the Communist Party. The victory had the deepest effect on the whole course of mankind's history, and if today the peoples of our planet enjoy the benefits of peace, they are indebted to a great extent to the unparalleled deeds achieved by the Soviet people in the terrible years of war.

The postwar years have changed the appearance of our homeland beyond recognition. By the heroic labor of the Soviet people, guided by the Communist Party, an advanced socialist society has been built in our country for the first time in the world. Our country's economic potential is developing in a planned manner and at a rapid rate. The living standards of the Soviet people increase from year to year. Other countries of the socialist community have also achieved outstanding successes in their development. The influence of the socialist states on the course of world events is becoming still stronger and deeper and their common international positions are being constantly extended.

The efforts of the USSR, along with the other socialist states and with the support of all peace-loving countries, have made it possible to carry out a definite changeover from confrontation to a relaxation of international tension. The achievement of this remains the principled policy of our party. It is legislatively included in the new Soviet Constitution, which states clearly and precisely: The USSR steadfastly conducts the Leninist policy of peace, comes out for consolidating the security of the peoples and for widespread international cooperation. It is precisely these aims which are served by the new important Soviet initiatives put forward in the report made by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev devoted to the 60th anniversary of Great October.

But as events and facts show, there are still many difficulties and obstacles in the way of peace. The threat of war has been made to recede. It has not been eliminated. Imperialism is still a source of military danger. Such is its class nature. A clear example of this is the whipping up of the arms race in imperialist countries, the intensification of the shameless propaganda of anticommunism and anti-Sovietism and the swelling of military budgets.

It is natural that the Communist Party and the Soviet Government cannot remain indifferent to this, and that they combine the struggle for peace and international security with constant vigilance toward the aggressive intrigues of imperialist forces. Striving to provide a reliable defense for the country from any aggression wherever it might arise, the CPSU Central Committee constantly raises the country's defense capability to the level of the ever-increasing demands, and develops and strengthens the Soviet Armed Forces in every way.

All branches of the Soviet Armed Forces--strategic missile troops, ground troops, troops of the country's air defense, the air force and navy--now have at their disposal the most modern weapons and battle equipment allowing them to carry out an immediate rebuff against any aggressor. Servicemen of the army and navy are successfully mastering this equipment and are marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces with new successes in battle and political training, in intensifying battle readiness and in carrying out the main task--the reliable defense of the socialist homeland and insurance of the peaceful labor of the Soviet people who are creating communism.

One of the characteristic features of the present stage of Soviet military buildup is the further raising of our party's role in guiding the entire activity of the armed forces. The party deeply analyzes the military-political situation in the world and develops and implements concrete measures aimed at insuring that the army and navy, in their technical equipment, organizational structure, level of training and education of personnel, are constantly at the level of contemporary demands.

A most important role in the guidance of the armed forces is played by the theoretical and practical activity of Marshal of the Soviet Union Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Defense Council, who has now been awarded, as you know, our country's highest military order--the Order of Victory--for his outstanding activity in wartime and peacetime. Leonid Ilich has made and is still making an outstanding contribution to the strengthening of the economic and military might of the country in the struggle to consolidate peace on earth.

Comrades, for 60 years the Soviet Army and Navy have stood vigilantly guarding the gains of Great October. Closely rallied around the Communist Party and in battle cooperation with the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries, they will continue to reliably protect socialism and communism and serve as a bulwark of universal peace.

Allow me to congratulate you, comrade sailors and soldiers, petty officers and sergeants, warrant officers and ensigns, comrades officers, generals and admirals, workers and employees of the army and navy, our honored battle veterans and all of you, comrade listeners, on the 60th anniversary of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces of our beloved homeland. Allow me to wish you happiness, prosperity and great success in all that you do.

USTINOV GIVES RECEPTION 23 FEB TO MARK ARMY, NAVY DAY

LD231802Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR defense minister and marshal of the Soviet Union, gave a reception today to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The reception was attended by Comrades Brezhnev, Andropov, Grishin, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Kulakov, Kunayev, Mazurov, Pelshe, Romanov, Suslov, Aliyev, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Rashidov, Solomentsev, Chernenko, Dolgikh, Zimyanin, Ryabov and Rusakov.

Also present in the hall were deputy chairmen of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and of the USSR Council of Ministers; ministers; marshals of the Soviet Union Ogarkov and Kulikov, first deputy ministers of defense of the USSR; Army General Yepishev, head of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; Marshal of the Soviet Union Sokolov, USSR first deputy minister of defense; Army Generals Tolubko and Pavlovskiy, USSR deputy ministers of defense; Marshal of the Soviet Union Batitskiy; Chief Marshal of Aviation Kutakhov; USSR Admiral of the Fleet Gorshkov; Marshal of the Soviet Union Moskalenko; Army General Kurkotskin; Colonel General Engineer Alekseyev; Marshal of Engineering Troops Gelovani; Army General Altunin; and also marshals of the Soviet Union and of the armed services, army generals, generals, admirals, veterans of the Soviet Army and Navy, scientists, cosmonauts, and representatives of party, administrative and public organizations.

The reception was attended by Tsedenbal, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of Mongolia. Also present at the reception were military delegations from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the DPRK, the Republic of Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and a military delegation from friendly Finland which came for the celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the armed forces. Also present were the heads of the diplomatic missions of the socialist countries accredited to the USSR and military, air and naval attaches from the embassies.

The reception was addressed by Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov.

It was then addressed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and marshal of the Soviet Union.

Army General Dzhurov, head of the military delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, member of the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and Bulgarian minister of national defense, spoke on behalf of the representatives of the socialist armies.

The reception was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

Ustinov Address

LD232052Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Apparent text of speech by Defense Minister Ustinov at reception marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy in Moscow on 23 February--read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, our respected guests, representatives of the armed forces of foreign states, friends:

Today our people and their armed forces are solemnly marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Allow me to congratulate you warmly and cordially on this festive occasion. We are sincerely glad to have present at our jubilee celebrations the leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government headed by the outstanding party, state and military figure, Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

The presence here of the party and government leaders is more proof of the day-to-day attention and tireless concern for our armed forces and for strengthening the defense might of our homeland. The fighting men of the army and navy, as all Soviet people, have welcomed with great approval and enthusiasm the awarding to Leonid Ilich of the highest military order, the Order of Victory. They congratulate you cordially, dear Leonid Ilich, and from the bottom of their hearts on this high award.

With us here are military delegations from the fraternal socialist countries. We are sincerely grateful to them and see this as a new contribution to the further development of our friendship and combat cooperation. We express gratitude to the representatives of the other foreign armies who are taking part in our festivities. The Soviet Armed Forces are celebrating the present jubilee at a notable time. The Soviet people, guided by the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, are working with enthusiasm on the implementation of the majestic plans of the 10th 5-Year Plan.

As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, we recall with pride the road they have traveled. They were born under the red banners of the Great October Socialist Revolution and bore them with honor through the fire of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War. Under those banners the fighting men of today--worthy successors and perpetuators of the heroic traditions of the older generations--stand guard over our socialist homeland. The whole battle history of our armed forces is a vivid example of their selfless service to their homeland and to the cause of peace and socialism. It is for just this reason that they have won the love and respect of the Soviet people, the gratitude and recognition of the peoples of the socialist countries and the thanks of all progressive mankind.

The Armed Forces of the USSR have come to their 60th anniversary strong and united around the party and its Leninist Central Committee headed by Comrade Brezhnev. The qualitative level of development they have achieved is the result of the great power of socialism and the tireless activity of the CPSU in strengthening the defense capability of our state. The might of our armed forces is wholly subordinated to the fulfillment of a great mission: the reliable defense of the gains of October, of the creative toil of the Soviet people and of universal peace on earth.

The men of the army and navy have heard with deep satisfaction and pride the warm words of greeting from the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers to the armed forces, spoken yesterday by Comrade Brezhnev. The message expressed a high assessment of their military toil. Allow me, on behalf of the entire personnel of the armed forces, to express deep and heartfelt gratitude to our beloved Communist Party, its Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo, to Comrade Brezhnev personally, and to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR for their constant attention and enormous concern for the armed forces.

In response to that attention and concern, the Soviet Army and Navy will continue reliably to defend the socialist homeland. They will always steadfastly stand guard over the peaceful toil of the Soviet people and serve as a bulwark of universal peace. In a single combat formation with the fighting men of the fraternal armies of the countries of the Warsaw Pact, Soviet military men are always ready to carry out their sacred patriotic and international duty.

Allow me to propose a toast to the heroic Soviet people and their glorious armed forces, to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to its Leninist Central Committee, to the Central Committee Politburo, and to Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the USSR Defense Council and marshal of the Soviet Union. To the health of all present.

Brezhnev Speaks

LD232118Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Apparent text of speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at reception given by Defense Minister Ustinov in Moscow on 23 February--read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, today the entire Soviet people and progressive mankind are widely observing the glorious anniversary of 60 years of the Soviet Army, which was created under the leadership of our leader Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The love and deep respect which our people have for their army were vididly shown at the festive meeting yesterday.

I cannot omit saying that both the festive meeting and today's reception are marked by the presence of our friends from the socialist countries: the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, the DPRK, the Republic of Cuba, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This is a new testimony to the brotherhood and close cooperation between our countries and the combat friendship of their armed forces. Comrade Ustinov was right when in his speeches yesterday and today he stressed the significance of this fact.

Allow me on this portentous date to greet the USSR Armed Forces, all who by their work promote the strengthening of our army's might and who create the basis for its combat capabilities. One would like to convey the warmest words of regard and greetings on this day to the veterans, those who went through the civil and fatherland wars, to those who did not spare their lives in the name of freedom and independence of the motherland.

I propose a toast to our soldiers, officers, generals, the Soviet Army, Navy and Air Force. I am firmly confident that they will continue to carry out their sacred duty to the motherland with honor. On your behalf, comrades, I address our friends from the fraternal socialist countries, asking them to convey our warm feelings, our love and respect to their peoples, parties, central committees and the first secretaries of the central committees. I am confident that you will support my words. To fruther successes of those who have served and who now serve in our armed forces, who today wear the soldier's uniform.

Dzhurov Speech

AU232016Y Sofia BTA in English 1900 GMT 23 Feb 78 AU

[Text] Moscow, February 23 (BTA)--The member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP and minister of national defence of the P.R. of Bulgaria, Army General Dobri Dzhurov, pointed out at the reception in Moscow on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces:

"The history of the Soviet Armed Forces is an always-living example of heroism, self-less service to its people, to the socialist motherland, to the cause of communism, brought (?into) being by the Communist Party, led by the great Lenin. Since the first days of its existence the Soviet Army has been fighting under the scarlet flag of the October Revolution as an army of a new type, as an army for defence of the gains of the socialist revolution, as a reliable friend and support of all workers".

Delivering the greetings speech on behalf of the defence ministers and members of army delegations of the socialist countries, who arrived in Moscow to celebrate the great jubilee, Mr Dobri Dzhurov stressed the crucial role of the Soviet people and their heroic army for the victory over mankind's most dangerous enemy--the German fascism. He pointed out: "It was namely the Soviet people and its famous soldiers that bore the brunt of the struggle in the years of World War Second. crushed the nazi war machine and carried through the great liberator's mission. Many peoples in Europe and Asia, including the grateful Bulgarian people, will never forget the immortal heroism of the Soviet soldier who brought them the desired freedom".

The Bulgarian minister underlined the historic importance of the Soviet peace programme and the personal contribution to its dynamic materialization of the secretary general of the CC of the CPSU, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, chairman of the Defence Council of the USSR, the Marshal of the Soviet Union Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

Mr Dobri Dzhurov stated: "The Communist Party of the Soviet Union is constantly taking care of consolidating the combat power of the Soviet Armed Forces as a result of which in recent years they have undergone real revolutionary changes and are now in a qualitatively new stage of development. We understand well that the defence might of the Soviet country and the military power of its armed forces meet the interests of all freedom-loving peoples, of all real fighters for peace".

Further on Mr Dobri Dzhurov emphasized: "We are all well aware of the fact that our strength and power are getting many (?times) greater, when we are together, shoulder to shoulder, in a united front in the struggle for materializing the bright ideals of communism. We are glad that along with the Soviet Armed Forces, the armies of the friendly socialist countries are the vigilant guards of peace as well".

On behalf of the defence ministers and the members of army delegations of the socialist countries, Mr Dobri Dzhurov cordially congratulated Mr Leonid Brezhnev on the latter's decorating with the Pobeda Order.

MILITARY LEADERS ATTEND CEREMONY AT LENIN MAUSOLEUM

LD231452Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Eminent Soviet military leaders went to the Vladimir Ilich Lenin mausoleum in Red Square today, the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. They observed a minute of silence in memory of the creator of the first socialist state in the world and organizer of the USSR Armed Forces.

A wreath was placed at the masoleum by Ustinov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, USSR minister of defense, and marshal of the Soviet Union; Ogarkov, Kulikov and Sokolov, first deputy USSR ministers of defense and marshals of the Soviet Union; Army General Yepishev, head of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy; deputy USSR ministers of defense, marshals of the Soviet Union and of arms of the service, generals and admirals.

A wreath was also laid at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin Wall.

FOREIGN MILITARY DELEGATIONS VISIT MOSCOW EXHIBITION

LD231622Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The military delegations of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the DPRK, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Czechsolovakia and Yugoslavia, which are in Moscow for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the USSR, today visited the all-union exhibition "Sixty Heroic Years" in the capital's central exhibition hall.

Kulikov, first deputy defense minister of the USSR and marshal of the Soviet Union, accompanied the military delegations.

USTINOV RECEIVES YUGOSLAV DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC

LD241158Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1123 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Army Gen Nikola Ljubicic, federal secretary for national defense, had talks in Moscow today with Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, USSR minister of defense and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. The talks dealt with the further development of Yugoslav-Soviet interarmy cooperation.

The talks were also attended on the Yugoslav side by Joze Smole, member of the military delegation and Yugoslav ambassador to the Soviet Union, and on the Soviet side by Admiral Gorshkov, commander of the Soviet Navy, and Marshal Sokolov, deputy minister of defense.

Marshal Ustinov asked General Ljubicic to convey warm greetings from Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to Josip Broz Tito, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

Federal Secretary Ljubicic headed the Yugoslav military delegation which attended the celebrations held in Moscow on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The delegation left Moscow for Belgrade today. General Ljubicic and the members of the delegation were seen off at Vnukovo Airport by Admiral Gorshkov, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, and a group of generals from the Soviet Ministry of Defense. The departure was also attended by Ambassador Smole and representatives of the embassy.

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